SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 33

WOMEN ARE DIGGING GAME OF THRONES

A MALE-DOMINATED, BLOODY AND VIOLENT SERIES WITH AN UNEXPECTEDLY LARGE FEMALE FAN BASE PAGE 30

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Commissioner Wally Oppal listens to presentations during the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry public forum in Vancouver, B.C., on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Outrage over sexism claims at Pickton inquiry

Allegations.
Commissioner has hired a lawyer hired to conduct investigation

The commissioner overseeing the public inquiry into the Robert Pickton case has launched a formal investigation into anonymous allegations of sexual harassment against his staff.

The allegations were contained in a story published Wednesday by the National Post, which reported that several former staff members told the newspaper they faced sexual and derogatory comments by commission staff.

None of the sources are named, and none make allegations against any specific staff member, but they did not allege Wally Oppal was personally responsible.

Oppal said he first learned about the allegations last Friday, and he's since appointed lawyer Delayne Sartison to investigate the claims.

"As regrettable and as unfortunate as these allegations are, I can tell you that they would be dealt with," Oppal told reporters before hearings began Wednesday morning.

"We've appointed a lawyer who will have a free hand in conducting an independent investigation. She is from outside our inquiry, she's experienced and well known in her particular field."

Oppal did not take questions or say how long Sartison has to complete her investigation.

Oppal, a former judge and one-time attorney general, said his staff have been under considerable stress, but he's never heard of allegations of harassment.

"The commission of inquiry has been very difficult for everyone involved, it's difficult because of the nature of what we're investigating here — the worst serial killer in Canadian history," he said.

"That necessarily brings with it a lot of stress and a lot of pressure, and all commissions of inquiry have those types of pressures."

Oppal released a more detailed written statement, in which he said there had been no formal complaints from any current or former staff members, and he said such behaviour wouldn't be tolerated if complaints were made.

The inquiry has been overshadowed by controversy and complaints since its inception.

Critics have complained about the appointment of Oppal, a former Liberal cabinet minister, and of the inquiry's terms of reference.

Independent lawyer Robyn Gervais, appointed to represent the interests of aboriginal people, resigned last month amid complaints that the inquiry was not focusing enough on the native women who were among Pickton's victims.

The inquiry is examining why Vancouver police and the RCMP failed to catch Pickton as he murdered sex workers from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper, pack it in: Rae

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae calls on PM Stephen Harper to resign following stealth-fighter controversy
PAGE 14

J.Crew brand to expand

The American clothing company takes it global after being endorsed by Michelle Obama
PAGE 34

No paper on Friday

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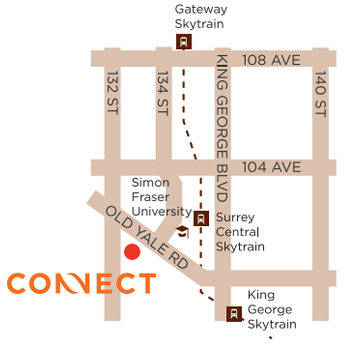

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Vancouver notary accused of bilking investors of $83 million in Ponzi scheme

A Vancouver notary public is being accused of running a Ponzi scheme that bilked 218 investors of $83 million.

The B.C. Securities Commission issued a news release Wednesday saying Rashida Samji promised returns of 12 to 30 per cent a year if investors placed their money in her notary trust account.

The money was to be used as collateral for investments by Mission Hill Winery in Kelowna.

But the commission alleges Samji put the money into her own bank accounts, paid existing investors with money from new investors, and the winery was not aware of the scheme.

"In reality, Samji had no notary trust account," the commission wrote in a news release.

"She deposited investors' money into two personal bank accounts in the name of her two companies, Rashida Samji Notary Corporation and Samji & Assoc. Holdings Inc. She did not provide letters of comfort to any wineries, and she paid existing investors with money from new investors under the guise of investment fees."

The executive director is also alleging that Samji falsified documents and created a false land title search as part of a fraudulent mortgage.

The allegations have not been proven and the commission says it will appoint a panel to hear the charges against Samji, who has since resigned as a notary.

In a related case, the commission also said a 58-year-old Vancouver mutual fund salesman has been given a permanent ban from B.C. markets for his role in the fraud.

The commission said Arvin Patel, who was a financial planner at Coast Capital Savings, admitted to luring about 90 investors into the scheme, many of them his own family members, co-workers and clients, who invested about $29 million, most of which has been lost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more local news visit metronews.ca/vancouver

Shirley Bond, minister of justice and attorney general, at the Touchstone Family Association in Richmond on Wednesday. KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

Local organization reaps benefits of forfeiture goods

Grant. The Touchstone Family Association will receive $210,000 from the province's civil forfeiture program

KENDRA WONG
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Touchstone Family Association in Richmond is one of 185 community groups and policing agencies across the province that will receive grants to reduce youth involvement in gangs, the province announced Wednesday.

The civil forfeiture program seizes gang- or criminal-related instruments such as grow-op houses, crack shacks or vehicles, the proceeds of which are donated to local communities.

"Our successful civil forfeiture program ensures that crimes doesn't pay in British Columbia," said Minister of Justice and Attorney General Shirley Bond. "We've been depriving gangsters, organized criminals and fraudsters from the motive that they value the most: profit.… We take back their profit."

With a record $5.5 million in grants distributed this year, Bond hopes the grants will prevent other at-risk youth from getting involved in criminal activity.

A $210,000 grant will be allocated to Touchstone's Street Smarts project, a one-on-one mentorship program serving at-risk youth, which has lacked funding in recent years.

"(In high school) I got involved with the wrong people, who taught me that doing drugs was good and that I would make it in life by doing bad things," said Victoria Alvarez, program participant. "I talked about things that I never talked about before (in the program), I felt like I had a voice. It got me where I am today."

Abbotsford Community Services, the Burnaby and Vancouver school districts, the Vancouver Police Department, the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre and Family Services of Greater Vancouver will also receive grants.

Drunk, naked men take shopping cart for spin through carwash

Rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a ... shopping cart?

That was the scene police discovered at an Abbotsford carwash around midnight Wednesday when a trio of inebriated 20-year-olds decided to take a spin through the Washworld carwash at Ware Street and Old Yale Road.

"We're not sure whether they picked Typhoon or Super Typhoon, but they made one of the selections, and you can judge whether they wisely or unwisely took their clothes off, got into the shopping buggy, and then let the magic of the water and bubbles wash over them," laughed Abbotsford police Const. Ian MacDonald.

"Strangely, the cold water did not cause them to sober up very much, but it was enough to cause them to shriek and yell when it started hitting their bodies."

Their screams alerted some nearby residents who, fearing the worst, called 911.

By the time police arrived the young men were putting their clothes back on.

"They were very remorseful," said MacDonald. "This probably just would have been one of their funny stories, right? Like, they didn't anticipate this was going to kind of go viral the next day."

MacDonald said there is a video of the incident but it has not yet been made public.

The men are not facing charges and were sent home to sleep it off.

KATE WEBB/METRO

1 NEWS

On the web

Flying car closer to reality

A Terrafugia Inc. prototype flying car has completed its first flight, bringing the company closer to its goal of selling the airborne vehicles within the year. Watch the car-plane in action at metronews.ca

Keeping you safe online

A made-in-Canada solution to safe surfing gives peace of mind to public Wi-Fi users. For the full story see metronews.ca

Mobile news

Sparks fly on Twitter between Ben Mulroney and a former chief of staff to his father after Norman Spector muses about whether Mulroney's Progressive Conservatives and Jean Chrétien's Liberals cut a quiet deal. Scan for the story.

Cost of gas. Record prices possible at pumps: Expert

If you think paying $1.44 per litre for gas was pricey, think again.

Consumers will be feeling the pinch at the pump as gas prices could reach a record-breaking high this season, according to a gas analyst.

Hot off the heels of a two-cent gas hike last Sunday to help pay for TransLink's Evergreen SkyTrain line, consumers can expect gas prices to climb roughly five cents to $1.50 throughout spring when gas prices are notoriously high.

"It's a seasonal issue. Gas prices are going up, which is a common increase in May, and they tend to stabilize over summer," said Dustin Coupal, co-founder of GasBuddy.com, a website dedicated to tracking gas prices across Canada and the U.S. "However, this year the prices peaked early."

According to Coupal, gas fluctuations are largely due to the closure of gas refineries in Washington, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

However, he doesn't think Vancouver prices will increase by much more.

"The increasing trend is that (gas prices) are rising. It may get high, but not much higher," Coupal added.

"People may cut back on vacations, but at the end of the day people need to go places. People get used to higher prices and ultimately they learn to deal with (it)," he said.

On GasBuddy.com, the average cost of gas in Vancouver has increased by approximately eight cents since last month.

Lower Mainland residents still continue to pay the highest gas prices in the province, averaging $1.44 per litre.

KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

Economy. Flaherty says new budget will keep Canada strong

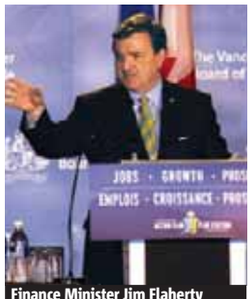
Finance Minister Jim Flaherty wants businesses to remember that amid global economic turmoil, Canada's economy is remaining strong.

In an optimistic speech Wednesday to the Vancouver Board of Trade, Flaherty characterized the new federal budget as a continuation of the economic policies that have seen Canada through a global recession relatively unscathed.

"We have one of the strongest economic performances in the G7," Flaherty said. "Our fiscal fundamentals are solid, our economic fundamentals are solid."

The Conservative cabinet member was not humble about the role his party's strategies have played in Canada's success, attributing much to low corporate taxes.

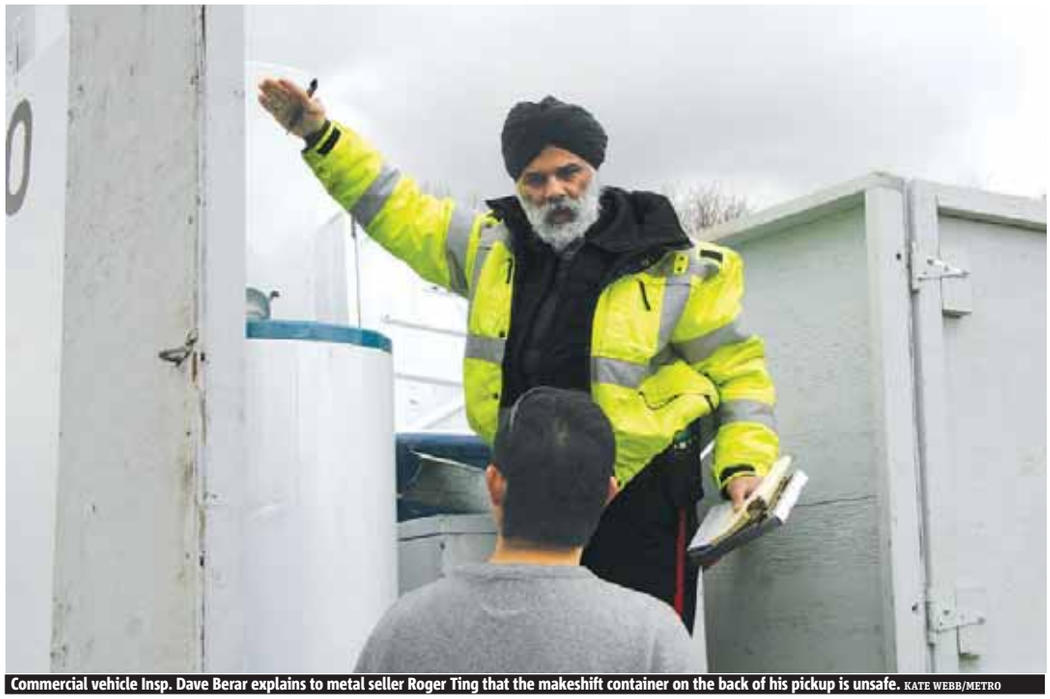
"We encourage the provinces to join us and get their corporate taxes down to 10 per cent so Canada would have a brand as a country of 25 per cent corporate taxes. B.C. has come a long way in that direction."



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty
GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

Flaherty urged the assembled businesspeople to have the confidence to invest in Canada in the future.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO


Commercial vehicle Insp. Dave Berar explains to metal seller Roger Ting that the makeshift container on the back of his pickup is unsafe. KATE WEBB/METRO

Cops crack down on metal peddlers

Hot and heavy.
Metal theft a growing problem in B.C.

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Coquitlam junk-remover Roger Ting thought he was about to cash in on two trailer loads of scrap metal he had collected.

Instead, he got a $275 fine and a $100 bill for having his truck and trailer impounded Wednesday as part of a major crackdown on truck safety and metal theft in Surrey.

New Westminster police Const. Jamie Crowston said Ting's trailer, which was being towed by a pickup piled high with metal odds and ends, was homemade. Loaded on top of it was an old navy-blue Mazda SUV full of metal Ting had also planned to sell.

"The trailer is overweight, the truck is overweight, the car that's on the trailer is not properly secured with the straps, they're all loose, and the trailer itself is not going to be safe to be on the road," said Crowston.

He said brakes and steering are compromised if a truck or trailer is too heavy.

"If this guy was going down a hill and couldn't stop because of all the weight on his truck and plowed into the back of a vehicle with a family in it, there would be a huge issue with that, so that's exactly why we're out here."

About 50 officers and commercial-vehicle inspectors conducted road checks under the east side of the Pattullo Bridge from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., weighing vehicles, checking IDs and questioning sellers about where they got their metal. With no fewer than three metal-recycling depots within a one-kilometre radius, the industrial area is a hotspot for metal thieves.

Ting's load of metal passed inspection, but later in the day officers seized a car from someone else that was reported stolen more than a decade ago.

"We do this in Surrey all the time, but this is a major one that we're doing today with metal theft and vehicle inspections," said commercial vehicle Insp. Dave Berar, standing in front of Ever Recycling Inc. on Industrial Road.

"We had these people shut down about a year ago, and they're back in operation again.... We're not just picking on them, it's everybody in Surrey that has metal recycling."

Berar said there are about half a dozen metal recyclers in Surrey.

Under new laws passed last year, all metal recyclers in B.C. must keep detailed sales records that include where sellers got their metal from and share them with police daily.

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Easter giving

UGM serves up for the Eastside

The Union Gospel Mission (UGM) will serve meals for over 3,000 people from the Downtown Eastside this Easter. Saturday's meal is one of four massive holiday meals served during the year. Meals are served at the UGM New Westminster, City of Mission, and the UGM Women and Families Centre. KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

Farmer's market. Healthy options for an Easter feast

This year, consider celebrating Easter the healthier, organic way.

"Fresh, natural and locally made: that's the three points of Easter dinner that are most important," said Tara McDonald director of the Vancouver's Farmers Market.

For family meals, try and take the healthy route by incorporating all of the fresh spring greens that are out right now, says McDonald. "I recommend baby lettuce, micro-greens and nettles. The carrots in season right now are amazingly sweet.... For the main course, try some farm-raised pork or organic turkey. Maybe take the unconventional route and serve fresh wild salmon," she says.

McDonald also encourages buying homemade chocolates instead of synthetically made: "Kids don't even notice the difference and it's a lot healthier." KYLA JONES/FOR METRO

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Scientists crack deadly breast cancer code

Discovery. Researchers learn why deadliest form of cancer resists therapies

KYLA JONES
vancouver@metronews.ca

The complex genetic make-up of the deadliest form of breast cancer has now been decoded, scientists revealed at a press conference Wednesday.

Over a period of 18 months, scientists from B.C., Alberta and England worked together to address their findings on the genetic differences of triple-negative breast cancer.

One hundred human tumours were examined showing huge variations, genetic abnormalities and biological irregularities among them.

"It gives us the ability to address the complexity by actually distinguishing the different kinds of triple-negative breast cancer," said Dr. Samuel Abraham of BC Cancer Agency.

"It gives us a handle on potentially treating something that has been previously very difficult to (treat)."

Triple-negative breast cancer is described as the deadliest form of cancer because it doesn't respond well to traditional types of therapy. Currently, it's treated as if it's a single disease, but, because of this major discovery, the way doctors combat the cancer will be remarkably improved.

Dr. Sam Aparicio, study lead, explains that the discovery will better help doctors design clinical trials for patients with the disease as they are better able to understand patient treatment response at a genetic level. "With each cancer at a different stage in the evolutionary process at the time of diagnosis, it helps to explain why patient responses to treatment differ greatly."

Triple-negative breast cancer usually occurs in women between the ages of 40 and 50, and accounts for 16 per cent of all breast cancer diagnoses and approximately 25 per cent of breast cancer deaths.

The study was published on Wednesday in the medical journal Nature.

Dr. Sam Aparicio explains his team's recent findings on breast cancer variations at the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver on Wednesday.
KYLA JONES/FOR METRO

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Juno Award-winner Lights poses for a photo Wednesday after her performance at the Alpha Secondary School in Burnaby to celebrate the school being awarded the MusiCounts Roland Jam Pak, music equipment worth $12,000.
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Contest was music to the students' ears

MusiCounts Roland Jam Pak. New music equipment at school will give students equal time to hone their craft: Teacher

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Students at a Burnaby secondary school not only won $12,000 worth of musical instruments and equipment, but also got serenaded by Juno Award-winning artist Lights.

Alpha Secondary School was awarded the first ever MusiCounts Roland Jam Pak, presented by SiriusXM Canada, which includes a drum kit, digital piano, synthesizer and amps to add to the school's music program and instrument collection.

Lights told the students before her two-song set that she didn't have the benefit of having a music program in her high school, and advised them to take advantage of the new equipment and try their hand at creating music.

"If you have access to a music program, it's a really healthy thing," she told Metro. "I think people sometimes underestimate the power of music because it's non-tangible, but it's so effective for our emotions. It's therapeutic.

"There are people who have the potential to be the next great thing and they just need the tools to do it," she added.

Paul Dudley, the school's visual- and performing-arts department head, said the equipment will give every music student at Alpha an equal opportunity to practise, compose and perform music for many years to come.

He said many of the students wouldn't have had that opportunity because of financial constraints.

"As a music educator for 16 years, I can attest to the value of a strong music-education program," Dudley said.

Alpha Secondary, with a population of 850 students, has approximately 25 per cent of the school registered in music courses. Its music program offers jazz band, guitar, concert choir, music technology and composition.

Canada and Georgia set to face off in Burnaby

B.C. rugby fans wanting to see a clash of the titans will finally get their chance.

The Canadian men's rugby team, currently ranked 13th in the world, will return to action with three summer home test matches after their run at last fall's World Cup in New Zealand.

Fans will get to watch Adam Kleeberger, whose bushy beard attracted worldwide attention at the Rugby World Cup, and the rest of the team take on No. 15 Georgia June 23 at the Swangard Stadium in Burnaby.

"This is our first chance back in Canada again and playing the team that beat us last time and close to us in the world rankings," said Gareth Rees, national men's program manager.

Rees acknowledged that it's a challenge to promote the game and they fought very hard to have the game in the West Coast. He promised that the team will put on a great show for the fans.

The last time the two teams met was two years ago in Georgia's capital city of Tbilisi, where the Canadians lost 22-15.

"I'm really excited for the opportunity to play in our home soil because we only get limited amount of games per year," said Jason Marshall, who played for the Canadian team during the World Cup.

Canada will also face the U.S. squad June 9 at Richardson Stadium in Kingston, Ont., and Italy June 15 in Toronto.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Jason Marshall of the Canadian National Rugby Team at a press conference Wednesday at the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame.
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Outdoor music festival. Lineup announced for LIVE at Squamish

The Tragically Hip, City and Colour and Mother Mother are some of the artists set to hit the stage at the LIVE at Squamish festival, Live Nation announced Thursday.

The three-day music event in August will also feature performances by The Sheepdogs, Chromeo, Beats Antique, Charles Bradley, Lights, The Airbourne Toxic Event and Kathleen Edwards.

"We are very excited to keep growing this festival," said Jordan Melville, managing director of brand.LIVE.

Other highlights include an artisan village and Sennheiser Silent Disco.

Direct coach transportation will also be offered between downtown Vancouver and the festival located at Hendrickson Fields & Logger Sports Ground.

Tickets go on sale Friday, April 13 at 10 a.m. on TicketMaster.

KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

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Protest in Greece after retiree kills himself over crisis

Making a statement.
Retired pharmacist, 77, drew a handgun and shot himself in head in crowded public square

A Greek retiree shot himself dead in the busiest public square in Athens during morning rush hour Wednesday, leaving a note police said linked his suicide with the country's acute financial woes.

Hours later, more than 1,500 anti-austerity protesters gathered in the square, responding to social-media calls for peaceful demonstrations accusing Greek politicians of driving people to despair with harsh cutbacks implemented to secure vital international bailouts.

Limited scuffles broke out between the protesters and riot police. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman places a flower as others stand at the site where an elderly man fatally shot himself at Athens' main Syntagma Square on Wednesday.
PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guantanamo Bay

New trial set for accused terrorists

The Pentagon said Wednesday it is ready to resume a trial at Guantanamo Bay for the acknowledged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and four other men, more than two years after President Barack Obama halted the case in an ultimately failed effort to prosecute them in a civilian court.

A Department of Defence legal official known as the convening authority has approved trying the five together on capital charges that include terrorism and murder, making them eligible for the death penalty if convicted. They are expected to be arraigned in May before a military judge at the U.S. base in Cuba.

Prosecutors had filed the charges last May. Lawyers had hoped that two of the men would be tried separately on non-capital charges because they are accused of relatively minor roles in the plot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

French police arrest 10 in terror crackdown

French police rounded up 10 suspected radical Islamists in their second countrywide sweep in several days Wednesday, leading to criticism that President Nicolas Sarkozy is ramping up raids to win votes in a tight election.

The arrests are part of a high-profile crackdown in the wake of attacks on soldiers and a Jewish school. They were carried out as part of a preliminary investigation opened Monday into terror-linked activity in France, a judicial official said.

Another official close to the investigation said the 10 were suspected of links to Islamist websites and of threatening violence in online forums. Some of them may have been trying to attend jihadist training camps along the Afghan-Pakistan border, he added.

The operation was led by France's counterespionage agency, DCRI, and targeted people authorities feared could turn to action instead of just issuing idle threats, according to the judicial official. Police seized computer hardware in the raids. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges

On Tuesday, preliminary charges were filed against 13 people who were picked up in a sweep last week, all members of a banned group, Forsane Alizza, or Knights of Pride. Nine of them were

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In this May 29, 1993 file photo, Inela Nogic, 17, reacts after winning the Miss Besieged Sarajevo contest in Sarajevo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

20 years later, Miss Besieged Sarajevo looks back on win

Symbol of resistance. Inela Nogic recalls the 1993 beauty pageant that defied the Serb siege of Sarajevo

On March 16, 2012, Nogic visits the venue where she was crowned 20 years earlier. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was not the typical wish of a beauty queen.

Instead of asking for "world peace" as she was crowned Miss Besieged Sarajevo in 1993, 17-year-old Inela Nogic unfolded a banner that read: "Don't let them kill us."

The war-defying pageant reflected the character of the 380,000 people who lived in Sarajevo then, residents trying to continue normal city life despite daily shelling and sniper fire under the almost four-year-long military siege by Bosnian Serbs that started in 1992.

"It was a crazy thing to do during a war. But we tried to live a normal life. It was some kind of a defence mechanism we all had," Nogic said.

Defying the siege, residents organized musicals and film screenings in basements, trying to prove to themselves and the rest of the world that they were "indestructible," according to the organizers of the bizarre beauty pageant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miss Sarajevo

Nogic's magical smile and the famous banner inspired the Irish rock group U2 to create a song devoted to her and her city — "Miss Sarajevo" — which they often performed with opera star Luciano Pavarotti.

- At a U2 concert in Sarajevo in 1997, two years after the war ended, frontman Bono led Nogic by the hand to the stage as he sang, "Here she comes, heads turn around, here she comes, to take her crown."

Troublesome tourists. Brits pester embassies

Troublesome tourists bombard British embassies with bizarre requests for help — seeking assistance booking restaurants, finding directions or making romantic advances toward locals, Foreign Secretary William Hague said Wednesday.

Announcing plans to bolster the response by diplomats to emergencies in other countries, Hague disclosed details of the wild demands made to embassies by travelling Britons.

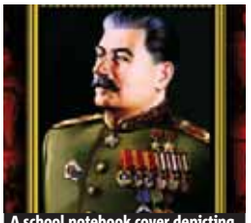
"We are not the people to turn to if you can't find your false teeth, if your sat nav is broken and you need directions ... if you are looking for a dog-minder while you are on holiday," Hague said, in a speech at Britain's Foreign Office.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. Stalin's portrait causes controversy

School notebooks with a portrait of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin have been causing a controversy in Russia since they went on sale this week.

While human-rights activists and historians have warned that the notebooks wrongly instil a positive image of Stalin in children's minds, eager customers have been snapping them up in Moscow bookstores. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A school notebook cover depicting Josef Stalin. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Job loss. Defence funding takes a hit in the budget

The axe is beginning to fall on jobs across the public service, with the Defence Department among the first to report losses.

The losses will be felt across the country, from military bases to reserve sites.

Union president John MacLennan says everything from research and development to food services is on the chopping block.

But the government has also committed to keeping the regular and reserve fighting force intact.

"If the government is not going to cut the size of the military or close any bases, who is going to do all the work?" MacLennan asked.

He said the answer is soldiers. Around 19,200 civil servants will lose their jobs over the next three years as a result of the budget, but unions say the cuts to the public service actually go much deeper.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada says there are still 6,300 jobs that will be cut as a result of the 2007-2010 spending reviews. Some workers could be reassigned to different posts, while others will be given the option of leaving early; about 7,000 of the jobs cuts reported in the budget will be due to attrition, the government said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Losses

The Defence Department took a big hit in last week's budget, told to cut $1.1 billion over three years

- **Cuts.** The Union of National Defence Employees says roughly 1,100 civilian positions are being eliminated
- **Still reeling.** Public Service Alliance of Canada says 9,700 positions were lost as a result of a budget freeze in 2010

Rae calls for PM's resignation after stealth-fighter fiasco

All-out attack. Interim Liberal leader slams Harper after scathing auditor general report concludes manipulation

Liberal interim leader Bob Rae speaks to supporters and the media in response to the 2012 federal budget in Toronto, Saturday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bob Rae is laying the blame for the stealth-fighter controversy squarely on Stephen Harper — and he's demanding the prime minister's resignation.

The interim Liberal leader says Harper "lied" to Canadians during last May's election about having contractual protection against skyrocketing costs for the F-35 jets.

And he says Harper deliberately misled Parliament as well. Rae's all-out attack on Harper follows a scathing report by auditor general Michael Ferguson, who concluded that the National Defence Department manipulated the process, low-balled cost estimates and kept Parliament in the dark to ensure it got the fighter jets it wanted. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec protest

Tuition hikes nearly cause riot

Montreal police arrested dozens of student protesters this morning after a group of demonstrators stormed the city's upscale Queen Elizabeth Hotel and a downtown shopping mall.

Police say they were called to the hotel after demonstrators started flipping tables and smashing dishes inside the building where John Lennon and Yoko Ono staged their famous bed-in for peace.

Quebec students have been holding regular demonstrations across the province for weeks to voice their opposition to the government's plan to hike tuition fees.

Montreal police dispersed today's crowd at the hotel — but they say some demonstrators headed straight for the nearby Centre Eaton shopping mall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hunt for Tori Stafford's body was painstaking, court told

OPP officers walk down a laneway near Mount Forest, Ont., Monday.

GEOFF ROBINST/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was possibly the most exhaustive missing-person search in Canadian history, but only a bit of luck and a hunch finally led police to where Victoria Stafford, snatched outside her elementary school one spring afternoon, had been buried, court heard Wednesday.

In abduction cases such as this one, a police officer testified, statistics show only two per cent of victims are found alive.

Nonetheless, officers went to remarkable lengths to find eight-year-old Tori, logging more than 18,000 kilometres in their search for clues and the girl herself.

"Literally, we went one and a half times around the moon," Sgt. John Stirling, co-ordinator for the Ontario Provincial Police's search-and-rescue operations, testified.

Stirling told the trial of Michael Rafferty — who has denied kidnapping, sexually assaulting and killing the Grade 3 student — about a painstaking search on foot, in cruisers and on ATV's and even underwater.

They sifted through hundreds of tonnes of garbage at a landfill over 20 days, needing decontamination at the end of each day.

A map of the routes police traced by ground search shows a huge web of lines, stopping just south of where Tori's remains lay near Mount Forest, Ont. Her body was 6.8 kilometres from the northernmost tip of the search grid.

Court heard that Woodstock police called in their provincial counterparts within a week of Tori's disappearance April 8, 2009. First focusing on areas in and around Woodstock, Ontario Provincial Police officers trudged knee- and sometimes waist-deep in swamps or water.

Underwater search teams were brought in with sonar equipment and they searched 11 waterways — some twice — because 14 per cent of similar victims turn up in water, Stirling testified. They talked to 13,899 people. The population of Woodstock is about 38,000.

They flew almost 1,000 kilometres in a helicopter in an effort to identify landmarks described by Rafferty's co-accused, Terri-Lynne McClintic, who later pleaded guilty to kidnapping and first-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tornado's legacy: Overturned cars litter streets in Lancaster, Texas, on Wednesday. ROBERT RAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twisters cut swath of fear

A dozen tornadoes. 650 homes damaged, 500 flights grounded in shocking start to Texas storm season

About 500 flights were grounded Wednesday at one of the busiest U.S. airports after as many as a dozen tornadoes tore through northern Texas.

Thousands were left without power and hundreds of homes were pummelled.

The Red Cross estimated that 650 homes were damaged.

Hundreds of flights into and out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field were cancelled or diverted to other destinations.

In one industrial section of Dallas, rows of empty tractor-trailers, crumpled up like soda cans, littered a parking lot.

In Lancaster, television helicopters panned over exposed homes without roofs and flattened buildings.

Utility officials said nearly 14,000 homes and businesses, mainly in the Arlington area, still had no electricity early Wednesday.

In Arlington, a tornado hurtled toward a nursing home.

Physical therapist Patti Gilroy said she saw the swirling mass barrelling down through the back door, after herding patients into the hallway in the order trained: walkers, wheelchairs, then beds.

"It sounded like a bomb hit," Gilroy added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climate. CO2 spikes ended ice age: Study

Dramatic temperature increases that thawed the last ice age followed spikes in carbon-dioxide levels in the air, a new study finds.

The study, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature, estimated global temperatures using ice and mud samples from dozens of locations around the world and found that globally, temperatures clearly went up only after carbon dioxide jumped.

"This, to me, seems like pretty powerful proof … of the connection between greenhouse gases and global warming," said study lead author Jeremy Shankun of Harvard University.

The ice sheet in the last ice age was actually so large that it was unstable, said study co-author Peter Clark of Oregon State University.

The initial trigger to the melt: A small and predictable wobble in Earth's orbit around the sun.

That tiny wobble meant a tilt toward the sun that brought more sunlight in the Northern Hemisphere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The evidence

6,000

Carbon-dioxide levels have jumped roughly the same amount in the last century as they did over 6,000 years to get out of the ice age, said study lead author Jeremy Shankun.

Spring storms

Ship hits rocks as Britain shivers

Seven crew members were rescued from a cargo ship that ran aground during gales near Colwyn Bay, north Wales.

Meanwhile, thousands of people were without electricity Wednesday as snow and heavy winds lashed many parts of Britain. Twenty centimetres of snow fell in the north.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spring storms

Typhoon-like winds kill four

A powerful storm with typhoon-strength winds and heavy rain halted planes and trains in Tokyo and killed four people around the country.

Winds of more than 144 kilometres an hour were recorded as the storm swept across Japan's main island of Honshu.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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T. rex may have had fluffy down

A softer side? A discovery by scientists uncovers feathery ancestor to T. rex

The discovery of a giant meat-eating dinosaur sporting a downy coat has some scientists reimagining the look of Tyrannosaurus rex.

With a killer jaw and sharp claws, T. rex has long been depicted in movies and popular culture as having scaly skin. But the discovery of an earlier relative suggests the king of dinosaurs may have had a softer side.

The evidence comes from the unearthing of a new tyrannosaur species in northeastern China that lived 60-million years before T. rex. The fossil record preserved remains of fluffy down, making it the largest feathered dinosaur ever found.

Misrepresented

"People need to start changing their image of T. rex."

Luis Chiappe, Natural History Museum

If a T. rex relative had feathers, why not T. rex? Scientists said the evidence is trending in that direction.

"People need to start changing their image of T. rex," said Luis Chiappe, director of the Dinosaur Institute at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, who was not part of the discovery team.

Smaller dinosaurs with primitive feathers have been excavated in recent years, but this is the first direct sign of a huge, shaggy dinosaur.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This artist concept shows a new species of tyrannosaur, Y. huali, found in China.
BRIAN CHOO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Spider-Man. Stuntman considering lawsuit

A stuntman who claims he suffered a concussion, whiplash and two holes in his knees while performing in Broadway's Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark has asked producers to turn over any relevant information as he weighs pursuing a negligence lawsuit.

The stuntman, Richard Kobak, claims in a series of papers filed earlier this year in state Supreme Court that he suffered the leg injuries in 2010 while filling in for another injured stuntman at the most expensive show in Broadway history.

He alleges that the rigging he used for the show's aerial acrobatics wasn't recalibrated for him and, as a result he made 70 hard landings on stage during performances and rehearsals. He says the hard landings created a 1.4-millimetre hole in his right knee and a nine-millimetre hole in his left knee.

He also alleges that a computer program controlling one of his jumps from a balcony sent him flying into a wall. He says he suffered two herniated discs, whiplash and a concussion.

A spokesman for the producers did not have an immediate comment Wednesday.

During the production's rocky start, several accidents marred performances.

One actor, Christopher Tierney, suffered a fractured skull, a fractured shoulder blade, four broken ribs and three broken vertebrae on Dec. 20, 2010. A lead actress, Natalie Mendoza, suffered a concussion during the first preview performance and left the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A stuntman may file a lawsuit against producers over injuries sustained.
CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exhibit

Tacky travel trinkets showcased

This is not your average tourist destination.

University of Alberta human-ecology students are trotting out an exhibit this weekend, showcasing just what tacky and treasured travel finds make the trip home from vacation.

Favoured are trinkets stereotypically linked to an area, like a didgeridoo from Australia or textiles indigenous to an African locale.

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Miss Universe. Woman born a male may have started a trend: Trump

A Canadian woman barred from the Miss Universe pageant because she was born a male has been given the thumbs-up to participate in the contest.

And there's a suggestion that her case might allow others like her to take part in future.

Donald Trump, who runs the Miss Universe Organization, has confirmed that Jenna Talackova can compete to represent her country in the pageant and he wished her luck in her quest for the crown.

Talackova, from Vancouver, had said she was devastated when she was originally told she'd be excluded for not being a "natural born woman."

Trump told ABC's Good Morning America Wednesday that Talackova's case may open up the contest to other transgender hopefuls.

"Probably, we'll have to open it up from that standpoint," he said.

Trump added that his pageant had followed the appropriate Canadian and U.S. laws in deciding the matter.

Jenna Talackova's passport, birth certificate and drivers licence say she's a woman, her lawyer says. REED SAXON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The laws are very clear. So, based on that about two days ago, we decided to let her compete and we hope she does well," he said.

Talackova had gender-reassignment surgery when she was 19.

She says she knew as young as four that she was a female.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Welcome to the island of goddesses

An artist performs during the unveiling of Cirque du soleil's new show, Amaluna, in Montreal on Wednesday. Amaluna invites the audience to a mysterious island governed by goddesses and guided by the cycles of the moon. And, oh yes, there's a poignant love story involved. The show opens in Montreal on April 19 and travels later to Quebec City, Toronto and Vancouver. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESST

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Suicide bomber targets Somalia's prime minister

Terrorism. Theatre bombing kills 10 people, wounds dozens more

Two weeks ago, Somalia's National Theater reopened for the first time in 20 years for a concert that drew an audience in festive colours in a city trying to rise above war.

A welcoming banner proclaimed: "The country is being rebuilt."

On Wednesday, the theatre was turned into a scene of screams, chaos and blood when a suicide bomber attacked another high-profile event, killing 10 people, wounding dozens and shattering a tentative peace in the capital, Mogadishu.

The blast occurred as Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali stood at the podium to deliver a speech.

He was unharmed, said government spokesman Abdirahman Omar Osman, but the president of Somalia's Olympic committee and the head of its soccer federation were among the dead.

The government said a female suicide bomber carried out the attack.

The Islamist militant group al-Shabab used its official Twitter feed to claim responsibility for the bombing.

The al-Qaida-linked organization said explosives had been planted in the theatre before the event, but an Associated Press journalist at the scene said there was no large blast crater, making a suicide bombing more likely.

"It was a cowardly act and that will not deter the government from performing its national duties," Osman said.

Wednesday's ceremony was part of that rebirth of entertainment, celebrating the first anniversary of the start of a national TV station.

"The blast happened as musicians were singing and spectators were clapping for them," said Salah Jimale, who attended but received only scratches from the bombing.

"Huge smoke made the whole scene go dark."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Near miss

Charge d'affaires Omar Jamal said the bombing was an attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali.

- The prime minister was sitting among a group of officials, and the suicide bomber was in an adjacent row, trying to figure out which one was her target, when Ali got up and went on stage to speak.

Hunger strike turns to riot

A riot policeman runs past fires caused by petrol bombs thrown by Bahraini anti-government protesters Wednesday in Sanabis, Bahrain, during clashes that erupted when police dispersed a march in support of an imprisoned human rights activist who has been on a hunger strike for more than 50 days. HASAN JAMALI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suicide bomber

Ten killed in Afghan bombing

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle killed at least 10 people, including three American soldiers, at a park in a relatively peaceful area of northern Afghanistan on Wednesday.

The Taliban, which claimed responsibility for the attack, are targeting Afghan and NATO security forces as they fight to assert their power and undermine U.S. efforts to try to build up the Afghan military, who will take the lead in combat responsibility over the next couple of years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Problematic poetry

Nobel laureate calls Israel threat

German Nobel literature laureate Guenter Grass labelled Israel a threat to "already fragile world peace" in a poem published Wednesday.

The poem criticized what he described as Western hypocrisy over Israel's own suspected nuclear program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans police officers, from left, Robert Faulcon Jr., Robert Gisevius Jr. and Kenneth Bowen arrive for booking on Jan. 2, 2007. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Decades in jail for cops

New Orleans. Officers sentenced for falsifying shooting evidence

Five former New Orleans police officers were sentenced Wednesday to prison terms ranging from six to 65 years for their roles in deadly shootings of unarmed residents in the chaotic days after Hurricane Katrina, with the judge lashing out at prosecutors for two hours on their handling of the case.

Police shot six people at a bridge on Sept. 4, 2005, killing two, less than a week after Katrina made landfall. To make the shootings appear justified, officers conspired to plant a gun, fabricate witnesses and falsify reports. The case became the centrepiece of the Justice Department's push to clean up the troubled New Orleans Police Department.

Kenneth Bowen, Robert Gisevius, Anthony Villavaso and Robert Faulcon were convicted of federal firearms charges that carried mandatory minimum prison sentences of at least 35 years. Retired Sgt. Arthur "Archie" Kaufman, who was assigned to investigate the shootings, was convicted of helping orchestrate the coverup.

Faulcon, who was convicted on charges in both fatal shootings, faces the stiffest sentence of 65 years. Bowen and Gisevius each face 40 years, while Villavaso was sentenced to 38. Kaufman received the lightest sentence at six years.

All five officers were convicted of participating in a cover-up.

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CBC slashes 650 jobs

Public broadcaster. Facing a $200-million shortfall, CBC announces major layoffs and potential advertising on radio

Fans of the CBC can expect fewer new shows on television and more ads on radio as the public broadcaster cuts hundreds of jobs in the wake of the federal budget.

News and entertainment will be hit but marquee TV and radio programs, as well as hockey broadcasts, will be protected, CBC officials said Wednesday.

The changes followed the decision by the Conservatives to axe 10 per cent of the broadcaster's budget as part of a government-wide cost-cutting effort.

Government funding makes up about 64 per cent of CBC's budget and the corporation receives about $1.15 billion a year from taxpayers.

The public broadcaster expects to lay off more than 650 people over the next three years, with the majority let go this year.

Lacroix noted that the CBC faces a $200-million shortfall, as well as $25 million in severance costs for the layoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.36¢ US (-0.61¢)

TSX 12,178.66 (-144.95)

OIL $101.47 US (-$2.54)

GOLD $1,614.10 US (-$57.90)

Natural gas: $2.141 (-4.6¢)
Dow Jones: 13,074.75 (-124.8)

Banking on big bonuses

National Bank CEO and president Louis Vachon attends the company's annual general meeting in Montreal on Wednesday. An activist group is calling on the bank to change the way it pays its top executives, saying the $8.4 million in salary and bonuses paid to Vachon last year was "exorbitant."

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance fracas

Carney dismisses bankers' concern

Mark Carney is firing back at Canadian bankers for requesting a pause on global financial reforms aimed at averting a repeat of the 2008 global crisis.

The Bank of Canada governor said in an interview with The Canadian Press that reforms should continue until the structural changes needed to eliminate irresponsible risk-taking are completed.

And he dismissed concerns voiced by Canadians Bankers Association head Terry Campbell who cited "unintended consequences" Tuesday when he said no one knows what impact the comprehensive reforms would have on the system.

Carney, who has fought resistance to reforms from the U.S. banking community, appeared to have no patience with even mild concerns from Canada's banking sector.

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WHEN DEATH KNOCKS ON YOUR DOOR — INVITE HIM IN FOR TORTILLA CHIPS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

A new Canadian study is out that shows unhealthy eaters, drinkers, smokers and layabouts die sooner, proving for the first time in a major research paper that major research papers are useless.

My first reaction is to ask what's new here. It seems like scientists got a research grant, slacked off for a few months with Doritos and Xbox, then realized their deadline had arrived and slapped something together about unhealthy living, their orange fingertips staining the keyboard.

But that's not the main reason health studies like this are useless. No, the big reason is that clearly nobody listens to them.

The study says 60 per cent of all people die because of problems stemming from drinking, smoking and other preventable health issues. Other Canadian deaths are caused by:

- 15 per cent: Run over by a bus while playing Angry Birds.
- 15 per cent: Death by overexposure because 5 C weather in March led them to wear a T-shirt and shorts.
- 10 per cent: Rightly beaten to death for shouting, "Whoo! Party!" on the sidewalk at 4 a.m.

So, any way you look at it, we kind of get what's coming to us.

Widespread unhealthiness is why study after study comes out saying the same thing. Because though research papers may be stupid and repetitive, nothing is more stupid and repetitive than the average person.

My solution? So glad you asked. Let's admit our approach is wrong and reverse course. Completely. Let's embrace Death.

I have a cigarette-smoking friend of mine who suggests, tobacco firmly in cheek, that the government should be happy she smokes since people usually die of lung cancer so quickly.

I say she's on to something. If we're all going to be hedonistic dopes — and we are — then let's embrace our early deaths and save on health care. Given government budget problems, I'm sure politicians would be happy if we went so all-in that we moved straight past health-care spending and directly into boosting the funeral industry.

I like to imagine Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty getting frustrated as he watches those "Make Death Wait" Heart and Stroke commercials where "Death" blathers on about all the nearby people he's going to kill eventually.

"What are you, a Bond villain?" Dalton yells at the screen. "Shut up and finish the job!"

With my pragmatic approach, we can expect new provincial slogans like: "New Brunswick — The Pitcher Province"; "Yukon — Home of both types of Klondike Bar"; and "Ontario — Smoke 'em if you got 'em."

And we can save researchers and health organizations from the pain of being ignored when they could be trying Blazin' Jalapeno Doritos and learning a new move on NHL '12.

Let's not make Death wait, people. He's a busy man.

It's time to turn the tables, or strollers, and embrace our sluggish ways.
BORIS SPREMO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The newly waxed

JONATHAN HORDLE / REX FEATURES

Immortalized

Royals get (wax) seal of approval

MARYLEBONE, LONDON. The moment Prince William and Kate Middleton announced their engagement has been immortalized ... in wax. Madame Tussauds has unveiled waxwork figures of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, adorned in replicas of the outfits they wore at the announcement in November 2010. **METRO**

Frenzy

"Visitors have been demanding this for ages, we do marketing work and the Duke and Duchess were right at the top of what people wanted to see."
Sculptor Stephen Mansfield

Will and Kate after announcing their engagement. GETTY IMAGES

Priceless

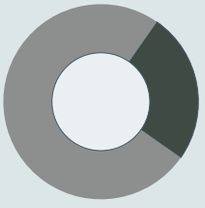
150,000

pounds (about $240,000) is how much it cost to create each figure. A team of sculptors and hair and colour artists took four months to complete the waxworks.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Is the federal budget really 'modest'?



75% YES, IT'LL ONLY LEAVE A BRUISE

25% NO, THE DEEP CUTS HIT IMPORTANT AREAS

Twitter

@HarrisonMooney: And the crowd at Rogers Arena cheers Luongo getting pulled. In game 80. With the #Canucks in 1st. #thisiswhywecanthavenicethings

@Canucksluvr: To boo or not to boo? That's the question I pose to you #canucks fans. Last night Luo looked awful and at 5.33 we expect more.

@passittoebbett: #Canucks have Lu and Schneider. There is no problem. We're grateful of our goalies pre-Luongo, but ungrateful now with two starters. Jeez...

@MlleClaireBear: The team that could win their 2nd consecutive president's trophy boos their goalie. Canucks fans wouldn't last a day in Toronto. #getagrip

@MikeMason13: One more thing about #canucks. Jeering is negative. You want your team to win then think positive.

metro
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Richard Crouse got a lot of flack for loving Wanderlust — but he's putting it out there again. Go see it if you haven't yet. HANDOUT

See them before they're gone

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Long weekend. Ditch the egg hunts and spring cleaning and check out these films you may have missed over the last little while

Richard: Mark, my four-star review of the movie Wanderlust got me the most hate mail I've received since my pan of The Passion of the Christ. I should note that for every hateful, name-calling email I received, I also got one thanking me for recommending the film, but WOW did the people who hated the movie ever take it out on me. Having said that, I'm going to invite more invective and recommend it again. Go see it before it leaves the theatres forever. It's a funny, if quite raunchy, movie.

Mark: I don't know why Wanderlust was so pilloried by the critics and so ignored by the audience. Fear of the '60s, perhaps. But like you, I loved it. Let me put in a few kind words about Salmon Fishing In Yemen. The title might be off-putting but it's a gentle satire and romance with great performances by Ewan Macgregor and Kristin Scott-Thomas. The visuals are crisp as is the dialogue. You could take your granny to this one but it still has a bit of an edge.

RC: You failed to mention the charming Emily Blunt, who to me, was the reason to see Salmon Fishing. On the other end of the scale is Goon, a Canadian hockey movie that rivals Slap Shot for profanity and sheer bravado. It's a mix of romance and hockey, but let's be real here; the only love story anyone cared about in this movie was the love of the game.

Synopsis

- Long weekends are the perfect time to catch up on all those movies you've been meaning to see but haven't. In this special long weekend column, the Reel Guys suggest some of the best movies to check out this weekend before they leave theatres.

MB: Didn't see it because I'm not a hockey fan and after Breakaway and Score I wasn't optimistic. I am a Woody Harrelson fan, though, and Rampart is still playing in theatres. More of a character study than a story, Woody plays the ultimate bad cop as we see his world fall to pieces. Dark, rough, and thoroughly enjoyable.

RC: Wow, your picks are way more heavy-duty than mine. I guess we know who the serious Reel Guy is. My last long weekend pick is Chronicle. It's sci fi, which I usually don't care much for, and it is one of those "found footage" films, which I really don't usually care for, but the story of three friends who gain superpowers is original, funny and smart.

MB: I really enjoyed Chronicle. A wonderful combination of glorious sci-fi set in the world of totally believable and realistic teens. So I'm in total agreement with you on that one. Of course it's no John Carter. But what is?

2

SCENE

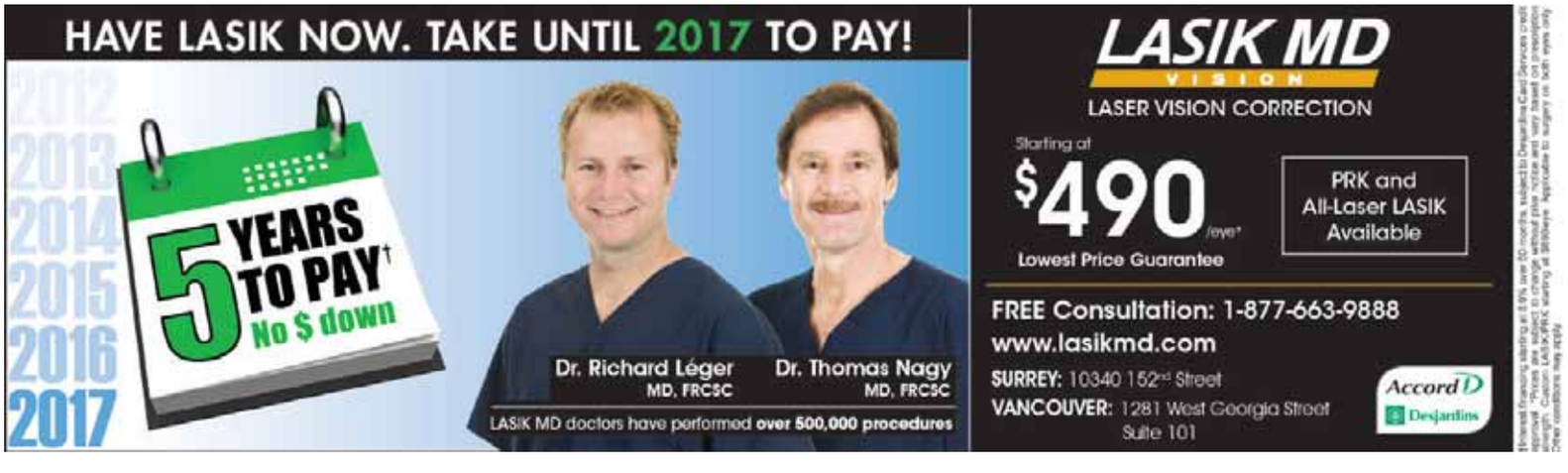
Scene in brief

Canada helps create RoboCop statue

Plans are moving forward for a Detroit statue of the fictional crime-fighting cyborg RoboCop. The Detroit News reports Wednesday that a RoboCop model is being scanned at a studio in Canada. When the scanning process is completed, artists will create foam pieces that will be shipped to Detroit's Venus Bronze Works, where the parts of the statue will be cast. Jerry Paffendorf, who is involved in the effort, says the statue "will have a physical, as well as conceptual, origin in Detroit." Location and a completion date are uncertain.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Censors in Thailand ban film based on Shakespeare's Macbeth as too divisive



Horror

The Moth Diaries

Director. Mary Harron

Stars. Sarah Bolger, Sarah Gadon, Lily Cole

Forget Twilight, Mary Harron's eerie melodrama is the teen vampire movie as a work of weird art. Much like she did with her revered take on Brett Easton Ellis' American Psycho, Harron takes an impression of Rachel Klein's well read novel and turns it into a lurid, arch fever dream, using pictures and ambiguity to tell the tale of two young girls, Rebecca and Lucy, whose attachment is threatened by the presence of an oddball, alluring goth girl (Lilly Cole). Harron's neat, controlled pacing and surreal storytelling aren't for all tastes but The Moth Diaries is the work of an artist who brush strokes are uniquely her own.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Drama

Gerhard Richter — Painting

Director. Corinna Belz

Stars. Gerhard Richter

When staring at a blank canvas, Gerhard Richter rarely knows how his paintings will turn out. What starts off as colourful may end up grey. But what makes Gerhard Richter — Painting so fascinating is watching this creative process unfold. Though a renowned painter, Richter is a self-conscious man and is at times uncertain about sharing his works-in-progress with the world. Gerhard Richter — Painting delivers an intimate look into Gerhard Richter's world.

REGAN REID

Documentary

Bully

Director. Lee Hirsch

Stars. Alex, Ja'Meya, David Long

Bully is a heartbreaking film about how bullying can ruin lives and take them. Following victims of bullies across America, the film explores the problem and what is and isn't being done to stop it. Hirsch documents kids like Alex from Sioux City, Iowa, who are tormented daily on the school bus, in the playground and classrooms. School administrators insist everything is fine. Police officers say they can't account for every child's bad behaviour. In the end, as one victim says, "nothing's ever done." Here's where Hirsch steps in. The director makes no attempt to appear objective. He wants his film to make a difference.

REGAN REID

Drama

Tyrannosaur

Director. Paddy Considine

Stars. Peter Mullan, Olivia Colman, Eddie Marsan

Tyrannosaur is a dark film that will haunt you long after the final scene. Peter Mullan is captivating as Joseph, an unemployed widower who, five years after his wife's death, is still disturbed by the abuse he inflicted upon her. Tyrannosaur is an impressive feature film debut for director Paddy Considine. He elicits great performances from Mullan and Colman, both of whom were awarded the World Cinema Special Jury Prize for Dramatic Breakout Performances at the Sundance Film Festival.

REGAN REID

Comedy

American Reunion

Directors. Jon Hurwitz, Jason Schlossberg

Stars. Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott, Eugene Levy

American Reunion has everything you'd expect from an American Pie flick: sex, nudity and the awkward conversations with Jim's dad (Levy). This latest installment of the Pie franchise centres around the all-important 13th high-school reunion. The gang is back and ready to party like it's 1999. The nostalgic will enjoy American Reunion — the film exploits every remotely amusing joke from the original.

REGAN REID

Thriller

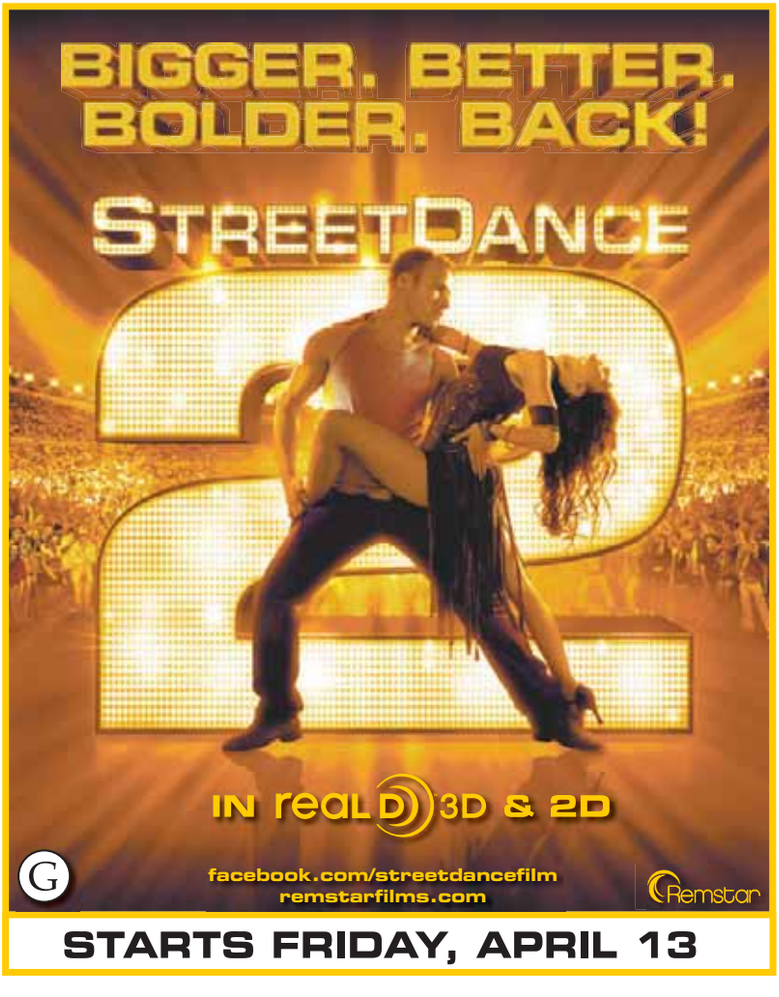
The Raid: Redemption

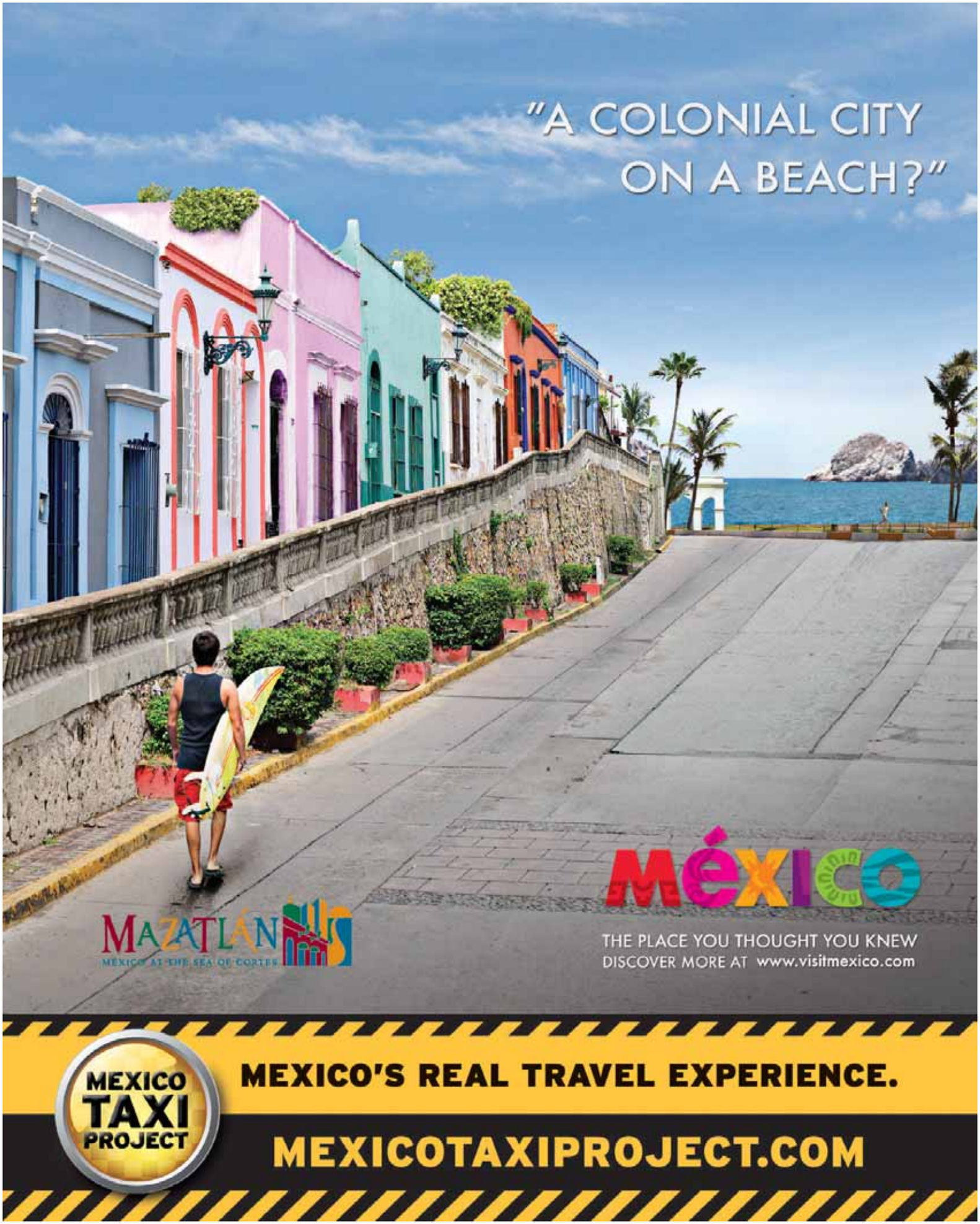
Director. Gareth Evans

Stars. Iko Uwais, Ananda George, Ray Sahetapy

An ingeniously shot and edited low-budget thriller, The Raid: Redemption brings Indonesian genre cinema back to life. This Jakarta-set tale of a SWAT team raid gone wrong may be the international action film of the year. Director Gareth Evans stages gunplay and hand-to-hand-combat with the exuberance and élan of a director who loves his material, and the cast — actors, stuntmen and martial artists — tear into their physically demanding roles with relish.

ADAM NAYMAN

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Paying homage to horror films

Cabin in the Woods. Director Drew Goddard talks of his love for the masterminds of fright — and things that go bump in the night

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

You think you know the story. As the tagline for the new thriller Cabin in the Woods, it's a pretty accurate tease. It's also about all that can be said without giving away the film's bizarre plot.

"Here's the most insane version of a horror movie we could possibly come up with so that we could show everyone we love this genre," said filmmaker Drew Goddard of the shocker that hits theatres April 13.

"This is not one of those this-is-so-horrific-it's-going-to-give-you-nightmares horror movies. This is the one where you laugh as much as you scream."

Set up as a typical genre yarn, Cabin casts a group of college kids on a weekend getaway to a creepy wilderness cottage. However, once they get there and the zombies rise … well, it grows even crazier. It's a film that's imbued with Sam Raimi and the spirit of Evil Dead — not shocking considering Goddard's idols.

"Certainly the big benchmarks for me were Sam Raimi and John Carpenter as directors — their films are very much in the DNA of Cabin in the Woods," said Goddard, who insists the thriller pays homage to all scary movies.

"I love the journey of the horror film. I love seeing where it's been and I love thinking about where it's going."

Goddard can thank the film's co-writer and television guru Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Angel) for his directorial debut. One of Whedon's former writers, Goddard credits the upcoming The Avengers filmmaker for a smooth transition to the big-screen.

"In the TV world, you're sort of in charge. You're talking to the actors, you're overseeing cuts, you're sort of doing a lot of the things that in the feature world counts as directing," said Goddard. "So I definitely felt I had good practice."

Cabin in the Woods opens next Friday. HANDOUT

Inside the Cabin

Film is more than just a few scares

Does Cabin in the Woods have a deeper meaning? We asked Drew Goddard if there was more to it than just cheap thrills.

"Certainly the questions at the core of Cabin are why do we need horror movies," he says.

"Why do we need to see kids killed on screen that sort of fulfils this primal need in us as a people?"

And Goddard says that in making Cabin, he was careful to not get too funny, but balance the scary moments with laughs.

"It was very important that we didn't get into spoof territory because we love the genre and we just wanted to celebrate it," he says.

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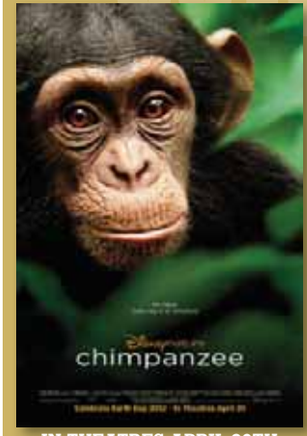
YOU COULD WIN A DOUBLE PASS TO AN ADVANCED SCREENING OF CHIMPANZEE


PLUS you could WIN a GRAND PRIZE of a private screening of CHIMPANZEE and a DISNEYNATURE blu-ray library.
IN THEATRES APRIL 20TH
DISNEYNATURE will donate portion of first week box office for CHIMPANZEE to the Jane Goodall Institute Canada through "SEE 'CHIMPANZEE,' SAVE CHIMPANZEES" program.
the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada
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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APRIL 6 TO THURS., APRIL 12. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Vancouver

OMNIMAX Theatre Science World 1455 Quebec St.

Arabia (STC) Fri 11-1 Sat-Sun 1-3 Mon-Thu 11-1
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri 12-2 Sat-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-2

Denman Cinemas 1779 Comox, 604-558-3456

Housefull 2 (STC) Fri-Sun 6-9 Mon 3:20-6:15 Tue-Thu 5:15-8:15
The Iron Lady (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15
We Need to Talk About Kevin (14A) Fri-Sun 3:30 Mon 9 Tue-Thu 3:30

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3:30-7-9:50 Tue-Thu 5-8:15

Fifth Avenue Cinemas 2110 Burrard Street

Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Thu 1
Footnote (G) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-6:50-9:10 Tue 1:15-4:15-9:10 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:50-9:10
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:55
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:10-9:30
The Salt of Life (STC) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:20-9:20
Tyrannosaur (18A) Fri-Thu 3-5-7:30-9:40

Granville 855 Granville St.

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Fri 6:35-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:55-6:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Monsieur Lazhar (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:30
Payback (G) Fri 6:55-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:15-6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:20
Pina (G) Fri 6:40-9:35 Sat-Sun 4:05-6:40-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:25
Project X (18A) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat-Sun 4-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 6-8:05
A Separation (G) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 4:10-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Wanderlust (14A) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street

Les Anges du Péché (STC) Sun 8:15
The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye (18A) Wed 8:20 Thu 6:30
Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne (STC) Sun 6:30 Diable, probablement (STC) Fri-Sat 6:30 Mon 4:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Pickpocket (STC) Fri 4:30-8:20 Sat 6:30
Trial of Joan of Arc (STC) Sun 5
West Wind: A Vision of Tom Thomson (G) Wed 6:30 Thu 8

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) A.M. Sat 9
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 3:45-7:30 Sun 12-3:45-7:30 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:30
Ridge Theatre
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri 4-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:15

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon 12-2:40-5:25-8:10-10:45 Tue 1-3:40-6:50-9:40 Wed 1-3:40-10 Thu 1-3:40-6:50-9:40
American Reunion (18A) Fri 11:55-1:30-2:35-4:20-5:15-7:10-8-10-10:45 Sat 10:15-11:55-1:30-2:35-4:20-5:15-7:10-8-10-10:45 Sun-Mon 11:55-1:30-2:35-4:20-5:15-7:10-8-10-10:45 Tue-Thu 1:30-2:15-4:20-5-7:10-7:40-10-10:20
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Wed 7
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 12:30-12:50-3:45-4:05-7-7:20-10:20-10:40 Sat 10-12:30-12:50-3:45-4:05-7-7:20-10:20-10:40 Sun 12:30-12:50-3:45-4:05-7-7:20-10:20-10:40 Mon 12:30-12:50-3:45-4:05-7-7:20-10:15-10:35 Tue 12:30-12:50-3:45-4-7-7:15-10:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-12:50-3:45-4-7:15-10:15-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9 The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:45 Sat 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:20 Sun 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:45 Mon 12:30-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40 Tue-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:20
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 12:40-4:40-8:45 Wed 12:30-4:40-8:50 Thu 12:40-4:40-8:45
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:05-5:30-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:10-9:50
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:30-6-8:30-11 Mon 12:40-3:10-5:35-8:05-10:30 Tue-Thu 3:10-5:35-8:05-10:30

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street

Cherry Blossoms (STC) Thu 6:30
Gerhard Richter Painting (G) Fri 4:15-7:45 Sat 9 Sun 6:45 Mon 6:30 Tue 8:10 Thu 3
How to Make a Book With Steidl (STC) Fri 6 Sat-Sun 5 Thu 1
Snapshot: The Art of Photography (STC) Sat 7 Tue 6:30

North Shore Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade

John Carter (PG) Fri-Mon 12:45 Tue-Thu 6:30-9:30 Fri-Mon 3:35-6:30-9:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Mon 1:10-3:25-7:10 Tue-Thu 7:10
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Mon 1-1:20-3:40-4-6:35-7-9:10-9:35 Tue-Thu 6:35-7-9:10-9:35
Safe House (PG) Fri-Thu 9:25
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:20 Fri-Mon 1:30-3:55-7:20-9:45 Tue-Thu 7:20-9:45

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri 1:10-4-6:50-9:45 Sat 1:40-4-6:50-9:45 Sun-Mon 1:10-4-6:50-9:45 Tue-Thu 6:50-9:40
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Mon 1:20-4:20-7:10-10:10 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, Thu 1
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri 12:45 Sat 1 Sun-Mon 12:45 Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Mon 3:45-6:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 12:15-3:30-6:40-10 Sat 12:15-4:10-7:15-10:20 Sun-Mon 12:15-3:30-6:40-10 Tue-Thu 7-10:10 Fri 1-4:10-7:15-10:20 Sat 12:45-3:50-7-10 Sun-Mon 1-4:10-7:15-10:20 Tue-Thu 6:30-9:35
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-4:30-9 Tue-Thu 7:20

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Wed 1-3:55-6:45-7:40-9:45-10:35 Thu 3:55-6:45-7:40-9:45-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 12:55-2-4-4:50-7:15-7:50-10:25-10:40
An American Tail (STC) Sat 11
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Wed 7
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:15
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5:05-7:25-9:55
Housefull 2 (STC) Fri-Thu 12:10-4:20-8
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-12:50-1:15-3-3:40-4:10-4:55-6:30-7-7:30-8:30-10-10:15-10:45 Wed 12:20-12:50-1:15-3-3:40-4:10-4:55-7-7:30-8:30-10-10:15-10:45 Thu 12:20-12:50-3-3:40-4:10-4:55-6:30-7-7:30-8:30-10-10:15-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
John Carter (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:30-6:55-10:05 Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Thu 12:15 Love in the Buff (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:10-10:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9 Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:50
Mirza: The Untold Story (STC) Fri-Thu 12:25-4:40-8:30 The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12-4:30-9
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:05-10:20
Wrath of the Titans: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50

Burnaby

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St.

The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 1:15-4-6:45-9:30 Tue-Thu 4-6:45-9:30
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:15 Tue-Thu 5:15-7:15-9:15

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:50 Tue-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:45-10:25
American Reunion (18A) Fri 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:15-10:45 Sat 2:35-5:15-8-10:15-10:45 Sun-Mon 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:15-10:45 Tue-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:30-10-10:30
An American Tail (STC) Sat 11
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Wed 7
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Mon 1:10-3:25-5:45-8:05 Tue 12:55-3:10-5:25-7:40 Wed 1:30-3:45 Thu 12:55-3:10-5:25-7:40
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Tue 12:30-1-3:35-4-6:50-7:15-10:05-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:30-1-3:35-4-7:15-10:05-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Mon 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Tue-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:50 Sat 1-3:25-5:50-8:20-10:50 Sun-Mon 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:50 Tue-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:05-9:45
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Mon 12:30-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:15-10
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 1-3:30-6-8:30-11 Tue-Thu 2-5-7:45-10:20

Station Square 220-6200 McKay Ave.

American Reunion (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7-10 Mon 1:30-4:20-7 Tue-Thu 4:20-7
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:30 Mon 1:40-4:30-7:20 Tue-Thu 4:30-7:20
John Carter (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:55 Mon 1:15-4:05-7 Tue-Thu 4:05-7
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4-7:10-9:35 Mon 1:25-4-7:10 Tue-Thu 4-7:10
Love in the Buff (PG) Fri-Sun 1:35-4:25-7:05-9:45 Mon 1:35-4:25-7:05 Tue-Thu 4:25-7:05
Project X (18A) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:10-7:25-9:40 Mon 1:45-4:10-7:25 Tue-Thu 4:10-7:25
Safe House (PG) Fri-Sun 4:15-9:50 Mon 4:15-7:15 Tue-Thu 7:15
The Vow (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-7:20 Mon 1:20 Tue-Thu 4:15

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:10-7-10 Wed 4:10-7-10 Thu 1:05-4:10-7-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:15-9:55 Fri 1:30-4:50-7:50-10:45 Sat 1:45-4:50-7:50-10:45 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:50-7:50-10:45 Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:40-10:30
An American Tail (STC) Sat 11
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Wed 7
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3-5:15-7:45-9:55
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri 11:45-12:15-1:30-3-3:50-4:45-6:30-7:05-8:15-9:45-10:15 Sun-Mon 11:45-12:15-1:30-3-3:50-4:45-6:30-7:05-8:15-9:45-10:15 Tue 12:15-1:30-3-3:50-4:45-6:30-8:15-9:45-10:15 Wed 12:15-3-3:50-4:45-6:30-8:15-9:45-10:15 Thu 12:15-1:30-3-3:50-4:45-6:30-7:05-8:15-9:45-10:15 Fri-Thu 12:20-3:30-7-10:25
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
John Carter 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4:25-7:35-10:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9 Sat 9
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:40 Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:20
Nameless Gangster (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-6:55-10:05
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4:05-7:10-9:50
Safe House (PG) Fri-Thu 8:05-10:40
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4:40-9 Fri-Thu 12-4:10-8:30
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:15
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-10:10

Surrey/White Rock/ Langley

Clova 5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 1-7 Tue-Thu 7
Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey,
604-592-4441
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Mon 12:45-2:45
Big Miracle (G) Fri-Mon 12:30
The Descendants (PG) Fri-Thu 4:30-6:45
The Iron Lady (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (G) Fri-Mon 2:50-4:50-6:50 Tue-Thu 4:50-6:50
Project X (18A) Fri-Thu 9
Safe House (PG) Fri-Thu 9:10
The Secret World of Arrietty (G) Fri-Mon 1
The Vow (PG) Fri-Thu 8:45
We Bought a Zoo (PG) Fri-Mon 2:35-6:50 Tue-Thu 6:50

Strawberry Hill Grande 12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-2:50-5:30-8:05-10:50 Wed 5:30-8:05-10:40 Thu 2:15-5:30-8:05-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Agent Vinod (PG) Fri-Tue 12:10-3:30-7-10:25 Wed-Thu 12:50-4:15-7:40
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Tue 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:30
An American Tail (STC) Sat 11
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Tue 12 Wed-Thu 2
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:15-4:30-6:45-9:15 Wed-Thu 4:30-6:45-9:15
Housefull 2 (STC) Fri-Tue 12:25-3:45-7:05-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:30-5:15-8:35
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:40
Fri-Tue 12:05-3:10-6:50-10 Wed 4:05-7:10-10:15 Thu 1-4:05-7:10-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:30
Mirza: The Untold Story (STC) Fri-Thu 1-5-9
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-4:45-8:45
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri 12:30-4:15-7:15-10:20 Sat-Sun-Tue 12:30-4:15-7:15-10:20 Wed-Thu 2-4:20-7:15-9:40
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45

Studio 12 Guildford 15051-101st Ave, Surrey

21 Jump Street (14A) , Fri-Mon 12:20-3:55-7:10-9:50 , Tue 3:55-7:10-9:50 , Wed 5:25-8:30
American Reunion (18A) , Dolby Stereo Fri-Mon 2-4:45-7:35-10:15 , Dolby Stereo Tue 4:45-7:35-10:15 , Dolby Stereo Wed 5:50-8:45
Housefull 2 (STC) , Sub-Titled, Fri-Mon 12:55-4:10-8 , Sub-Titled, Tue 4:10-8 , Sub-Titled, Wed 5:05-8:25
The Hunger Games (PG) , Fri-Mon 1-1:40-3:45-4:20-6:30-7:20-9:45 , Tue 3:45-4:20-6:30-7:20-9-9:45 , Wed 5-5:35-7:45-8:20
The Lorax (STC) , Fri-Mon 1:15-3:30-6:40-9:10 , Tue 3:30-6:40-9:10 , Wed 5:15-7:50
Mirror Mirror (PG) , Fri-Mon 1:10-3:35-6:50-9:20 , Tue 3:35-6:50-9:20 , Wed 5:10-8
Mirza: The Untold Story (STC) , Sub-Titled, Fri-Mon 1:05-4:35-8:10 , Sub-Titled, Tue 4:35-8:10 , Sub-Titled, Wed 7:35
Titanic 3D (14A) , Fri-Tue 3:15-8:15 , Wed 6:15
Wrath of the Titans (14A) , Fri-Mon 1:50-4:30-7:25-10 , Tue 4:30-7:25-10 , Wed 5:40-8:35
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) , Fri-Mon 1:30-4-7-9:30 , Tue 4-7-9:30 , Wed 5:20-8:10

Rialto 1732-152nd Street, White Rock

The Descendants (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Mon 2:10
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Mon 2-7:10-9:15 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:15

Criterion 4 White Rock 2381 King George Highway,

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Mon 2:20-7:15-9:25 Tue-Thu 7:15-9:25
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Mon 2:10-7-9:40 Tue-Thu 7-9:40
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 2-6:45-9:35 Tue-Thu 6:45-9:35
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Mon 2:30-7:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 7:30-9:30

Colossus Langley 20090-91A Ave, Langley

21 Jump Street (14A) Fri-Mon 12:15-2:50-5:35-7:25-8:15-10-10:55 Tue 3:55-7:05-7:30-10:05-10:45 Wed 7:05-7:30-10:05-10:45 Thu 3:55-7:05-7:30-10:05-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
American Reunion (18A) Fri-Mon 11:55-2:05-2:40-4:40-5:25-7:30-8:10-10:15-10:55 Tue-Thu 4:05-4:35-7:20-7:50-10:15-10:40
An American Tail (STC) Sat 11
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (PG) Wed 7
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:30-4:45 Tue-Thu 4:50
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax 3D (G) Fri-Sat 10:50-1:10-3:35-5:45-8:10-10:25 Sun-Mon 1:10-3:35-5:45-8:10-10:25 Tue-Thu 3:10-5:25-7:40-9:55
The Hunger Games (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-4:10-7:30-10:45 Tue-Thu 4-7:15-10:30
Fri-Mon 11:30-12:25-2-2:45-3:50-5:15-6-7-8:30-9:15-10:10 Tue 3-4:25-5-6:10-7:35-8:15-9:30-10:45 Wed 4:25-5-6:10-8:15-9:30-10:45 Thu 3-4:25-5-6:10-7:35-8:15-9:30-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
John Carter 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 1:20-4:30-7:35-10:40 Tue-Thu 3:45-7:25-10:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Manon - Live (STC) Sat 9
Mirror Mirror (PG) Fri-Sat 11:15-12-1:50-2:35-4:25-5:10-7-7:45-9:35-10:30 Sun-Mon 12-1:50-2:35-4:25-5:10-7-7:45-9:35-10:30 Tue-Thu 4:10-4:40-6:55-7:25-9:45-10:20
The Raid: Redemption (18A) Fri-Mon 12:50-3:20-5:50-8:20-10:50 Tue-Thu 4:30-7:45-10:30
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG) Fri-Mon 11:45-2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Tue 4:20-7:10-10:25 Wed 4:20-10:25 Thu 4:20-7:10-10:25
Titanic 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 12:45-4:45-8:45 Tue-Thu 4:45-8:45
Titanic: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Mon 12-4-8 Tue-Thu 4-8
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Mon 12:05-2:25-5:30-8:05-10:35 Tue 3:50-7:10-10:10 Wed 3:50-8:10-10:10 Thu 3:50-7:10-10:10
Wrath of the Titans 3D (14A) Fri-Mon 1-3:30-5:55-8:30-11 Tue-Thu 4:15-7:45-10:35

Twilight Drive-In 260th Street & Fraser Highway, Langley

Project X (18A) Fri-Thu 10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Sat 11:45
Wrath of the Titans (14A) Fri-Thu 8:15

Rachel Dratch walks into a bar ... and comes out with a book

The book has Dratch feeling "a little exposed." GETTY IMAGES

Tales to tell. From her Debbie Downer days on SNL to her unexpected life as a single mom

HEIDI PATALANO
scene@metronews.ca

You may know Rachel Dratch as Debbie Downer from her stint on Saturday Night Live or for her cameos on 30 Rock, but the 46-year-old comedian has more stories to tell than the standard ex-SNL-er's behind-the-scenes yarns.

"It all started because I wasn't getting acting jobs, basically," Dratch says dryly when asked about how she began to write her memoir, Girl Walks Into a Bar. The actress, having parted with SNL in 2006 after seven years, had first decided to write a book about her dating experiences in New York City, having been courted by all manner of strange men — including one particular gem who had an interest in consuming horse meat. But then something unexpected happened.

"There was this crazy twist that happened in my life and I thought maybe I should start writing about this," she says. Dratch, at 43 years old, after having giving up on the idea of being married with kids someday, unexpectedly got pregnant and decided to make that "midlife miracle," as she calls it, the centrepiece of her book.

"The whole thing about not having kids is those baby showers. I think so many women feel the way that I talk about in the book — I think there's lots of disappointment in these women's hearts."

While Dratch does explore some of these sensitive issues, she's not short on the dish when it comes to her own love life and her time on SNL, even if she is loath to admit that her unique perspective on that legendary TV show is a fascinating component of the book.

"To me, so many people have described their experience there," she says. "When I was there, it was pretty supportive ... It's such highs and such lows there. Only people that have been there understand what it's like to get your scene cut at 11 p.m. before you're going on. But then on the flip side, it's the pinnacle of sketch comedy."

On dating

Rachel on dating in the city:

- **"In Europe,** I'm a total hottie, not that I spend much time in Europe. Whenever I leave New York (or L.A.), I meet a lot of normal guys. There's a lot more normal guys not in these big cities where everyone moves there to be the best thing. Everyone moves there to be the best in their careers and that includes dating the hottest chick. I don't know, it just seems like there's lots of trading up and looking around in L.A. and New York."

TV Picks

Scandal begins in high places

A new series by Grey's Anatomy producer Shonda Rhimes debuts Thursday. Scandal stars Kerry Washington as a new recruit at a crisis management firm who is tasked with handling an accusation levelled against the president — on her first day. (Citytv)

Kerry Washington stars in the new show Scandal. HANDOUT

Titanic's Canadian connections

With the 100th anniversary of the Titanic's sinking just around the corner, CBC-TV is screening a two-hour Doc Zone documentary on Thursday night on Canadian connections to the disaster. Of the more than 2,200 passengers and crew on the ship, about 130 were en route to Canada.

Indiana Jones and the movie marathon

There are a couple of movie marathon options for those looking to spend all Friday lounging on the couch. Action has an Indiana Jones theme going, with Raiders of the Lost Ark, Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade going back-to-back-to-back.

At the same time, Movietime is screening a triple bill of Police Academy"movies.

Revenge of The Borgias

The Emmy- and Gemini -Award winning Canadian co-production The Borgias returns for its second season on Bravo! Sunday. Canadian director Kari Skogland joins fellow Canucks Colm Feore and Francois Arnaud for this season, which sees Rodrigo Borgia (Jeremy Irons) enlisting his family to seek revenge against those who oppose him.

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Why women love Game of Thrones

Fantasy. It's bloody, violent and male-dominated. So why does this show have so many female fans?

MICHELLE CASTILLO
scene@metronews.ca

Maisie Williams plays Arya Stark, one of the show's strongest female characters. CONTRIBUTED

At first glance, the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros (and the Wildlings and Others that live past the northern border) are dominated by a male society. Daughters are wedded off for political advantage, and wives and betrothed who disobey their husbands are slapped across the face.

Despite what appears to be a misogynistic message, HBO's critically acclaimed series Game of Thrones has managed to appeal a large base of female fans. From bloggers analyzing women's hatred toward the more conniving female characters to women-run forums dedicated to what female characters they can't wait to see next, the fairer sex is as enamored with the world that George R. R. Martin created as their male counterparts.

Control

"(The women) have a lot of control over their actions, more than typical women in fantasy stories."

Diya Chaco
Fan of the series

"I could see how men would be more attracted to it. It's a lot of sex and violence – and there's a lot of boobs," Rosanne Stern said. "(The episodes) were based off the time period they were written about. But, a lot of the girls who have seen it – after they (got over that) there was a lot of sex and violence – we're drawn in as well."

Stern, a 26-year-old English student, faithfully watches the HBO series with her boyfriend. She had previously read the series before the show came out. Despite the fact that she believes that it is "one of the most well-written series I've come across in a while," Stern rarely found other female fans that shared her passion for the series before the TV show came out. Now, she's noticing that men and women alike reading the books and catching up with the A Song of Fire and Ice saga.

Part of what Stern feels draws women to the series is the strong female characters like Daenerys, the Dothroki princess from House Targaryen, and Brienne of Tarth, a warrior who will be featured on the second season of the show.

Diya Chaco, another female fan of the series, agrees. "You have these women set in this time where there are knights and yes they are princesses, but none of them act like a princess," she explained.

Chaco was first introduced to the series when her mother bought the first book, A Song of Ice and Fire, in an airport and gave it to her back in 1999. "It was way too early for me to read it," the 25-year-old editorial producer said, laughing.

When Chaco heard HBO was making a show, she immediately re-bought the books that she had lost during Hurricane Katrina and read them over again. She was drawn in by the fantasy series because it didn't conform to typical tropes.

"I know that there are graphic sex scenes in the book, and to see those graphic sex scenes on the screen is a bit shocking, but it's HBO," Chaco explained.

At the end, what draws most women to the show is the series' universal appeal of a nail-biting plot where no person is safe and strong characters, regardless of their gender.

Keeps trying

Why Finkleman likes playing George Findlay:

- "(He has an) ability to slide out of difficult situations he has created because of his own self-interest ... Ralph Kramden was the same thing on The Honeymooners ... we watch him reach for something he never can quite get."

Good God, Finkleman is bringing back George

There's a good reason why Ken Finkleman changed the title of his continuing television series from Good Dog to Good God.

"It's a different show completely," said the creator, writer and star of the new series that premieres April 9th on The Movie Network. Harkening back to his popular '90s hit The Newsroom, Good God this time posits his perpetual character George Findlay as head of a right-wing TV news network — quite a switch from last year's self-reflective sitcom.

But once again, Finkleman gets to explore his interminable George character through another setting. Whether it's in The Newsroom or Good God, it's an opportunity that keeps its creator evolving – even if the character doesn't.

"George learns nothing. So what's interesting about him I think is we watch his inability to learn," explained Finkleman — an anti-establishment writer if showbiz ever saw one. "There's no arc, it's a comedy — it's silly."

STEVE GOW/METRO

The setting may change, but Ken Finkleman's George Findlay never does. CONTRIBUTED

A subject that 'remains very much alive in all of us'

Theatre. Adaptation of Michael Ignatieff's novel Scar Tissue comes to Vancouver

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Groucho Marx once quipped that getting older is no problem; you just have to live long enough.

Marx, of course, was increasingly senile in his later years, but by most accounts his sense of humour remained intact. The story goes that, on his deathbed, a nurse produced a thermometer and informed him that she wanted to check if he had a temperature.

"Don't be silly, he said. "Everybody has a temperature."

And everybody gets old. Enter Michael Ignatieff's deft novel Scar Tissue, a potent work more welcomed by critics than his bid to become Prime Minister of Canada.

The book has been adapted twice by Dennis Foon — first for the CBC in 2002 and now for the Arts Club Theatre Company.

"Struggling for connection with our aging loved ones is a battle many of us go through," says Foon. "It is certainly the source of my own obsession with this piece. Trying to make sense out of infirmity, having to watch those we love fade away, we hope against hope to find closure in these crucial, formative relationships.

"A situation where the child, still aching for the love of a parent, remains very much alive in all of us."

Here's the elevator pitch: After David's mother is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he decides to find out why the talented and successful painter decided to abandon art abruptly many years earlier. Is that decision linked to her current condition? Will he share the same fate?

Ultimately, the play explores the inextricable connection between family, memory and identity.

Scar Tissue, directed by Craig Hall, stars Craig Erickson, Kelk Jeffery, Megan Leitch, Tom McBeath, Gabrielle Rose and Haig Sutherland. It opens Thursday and runs until April 28 at the Arts Club's Revue Stage. Tickets $25 to $35, inclusive of taxes and fees.

More information at ArtsClub.com.

What's going on

- **Sweet Disposition.** You like that song, I know you do. Hey, it's a good one. Check out The Temper Trap June 19 at the Malkin Bowl with guests, Crocodiles. Tickets ($32.50) went on sale Thursday morning at LiveNation.com so you better get on it.
- **Blinded By Science.** Hey, it's Thomas Dolby. Catch the Time Capsule Tour, with guests Aaron Jonah Lewis and Ben Belcher, Tuesday April 10 at the Rio Theatre. Tickets on sale now at LiveNation.com, Zulu, Highlife and Red Cat Records.

Craig Erickson and Gabrielle Rose in the Arts Club Theatre Company's production of Scar Tissue. EMILY COOPER/ARTS CLUB

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Sound Check

The mystery of the giant hole

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Here is a fundamental question that every vinyl lover has asked: why is the hole of a 7-inch single so big?

For the first 50 years of the turntable's existence, the spindle on which you placed the record, was a standard size: approximately .283 inches.

However, Columbia's archrival, RCA, was most annoyed at this new format.

Rather than licence Columbia's technology for their releases, RCA introduced their own new record, the 7-inch single that spun at 45 RPM and had a center hole that measured 1.5-inches in diameter.

RCA wanted their new format to crush Columbia's LPs, so they began selling turntables that could only play 45s.

The thinking was that once someone bought one of these turntables with the fat spindles, they were theoretically locked into buying music in that format from then on. But there was a more scientific reason for the larger hole.

When a new 45 dropped from the spindle onto the turntable, it was required to spin up from a dead stop to 45 RPM very quickly.

This torque tended to cause the small holes to go out-of-round very quickly, causing record to wobble as it spun. The larger hole allowed the sudden rotational force to be distributed over a longer path — pix 1.5 = about 4.712 inches — reducing wear and allowing the hole to stay round longer.

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Of Monsters and Men: You are what you sing

Music scene. The latest Nordic buzz band is riding a wave since their SXSW breakthrough show

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
Metro World News

Of Monsters and Men has been making waves since SXSW. HANDOUT

For a country with half the population of Center City, Iceland sure has a diverse music scene. Of Monsters and Men, the latest export from the Nordic nation, were one of the most talked about bands at last month's SXSW. The sextet from Reykjavik hit the U.S. airwaves running when they performed their hit single Little Talks on Seattle radio station KEXP during Iceland Airwaves, their premiere music festival.

"We didn't know what radio station it was. They came to my apartment (to record). We definitely didn't think it would turn out so big," says co-singer and guitarist Ragnar Þórhallsson.

Since then, the orchestral indie pop song has nearly a million plays on YouTube.

The name Of Monsters and Men refers to the topics of their songs, which range from, well, monsters to men.

"Jurassic Park was my favourite film as a child. You grow up listening to a lot of Icelandic fantasy stories," says Þórhallsson. "That plays a part in what we're doing."

The group of friends channel the energy of contemporary folk rock groups such as Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros and Mumford & Sons.

"We want to have fun on stage. The energy and the songs come from being a group — everyone is singing along and having fun," says Þórhallsson.

Their infectious energy has crossed international borders, playing into ecstatic American crowds.

"Americans are very open and welcoming in every city. They want to meet us and shake our hands. It's different from Iceland, where everyone is closed. ... And we don't let anyone in," Þórhallsson observes.

Quote

"We want to have fun on stage. The energy and the songs come from being a group."

Ragnar Þórhallsson
Talking about why they're successful

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Justin Timberlake to be officially off the market?

Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are reportedly looking to tie the knot as soon as this summer, according to People magazine.

"Justin and Jessica are planning a big (summer) wedding," a source says of the plans. "Jessica initially wanted a smaller, more intimate wedding, but Justin from the beginning wanted a big wedding and that's what they have decided on."

He also apparently wants to be in fantastic shape for the big day.

"Justin has put on a few pounds recently after working out a lot for a movie role, but now with the summer in sight he's back in the gym and working out harder than ever," the source adds. "He's seen the effort Jessica puts in order to stay fit and looking healthy and he doesn't want to go the other way. She's inspired him to get fit again."

Bruno Mars

Bruno Mars denies report that he is gay

Reports of Bruno Mars' coming out of the closet as gay are apparently phony, his rep insists to Hollyscoop.

"Someone pulled a prank and the world has run with it," the singer's rep says. "The Internet is really powerful."

A viewer-submitted CNN story had reported that Mars had told a Chicago radio station that he's a homosexual.

"The timing is bad. I hadn't realized it was April Fool's Day, but it's been pointed out to me, and I don't want to go too public with this," Mars supposedly said. His rep insists the whole thing was "completely fabricated."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

SNL stars look to leave show

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Two sources have told Us Weekly that several of the best, more recognizable Saturday Night Live players are ready to move on.

"Kristen Wiig, Andy Samberg and Jason Sudeikis are all leaving after the end of the season," says one insider.

"It will be a huge blow to the show. Without Andy's video shorts and Kristen saving every skit, they'll need help!"

A rep for both Wiig, 38, and Sudeikis, 36, deny the rumor, telling Us, "No decisions are made until the season is over."

But another pal says the timing is right.

"Kristen was talking about leaving a while ago. With her movie success, it's no surprise."

It's time, but it's too bad — they (and the occasional crazy guest host, a la Lindsay Lohan) made the show worth watching this season. Although now that we think about it, that's a pretty sad highlight reel.

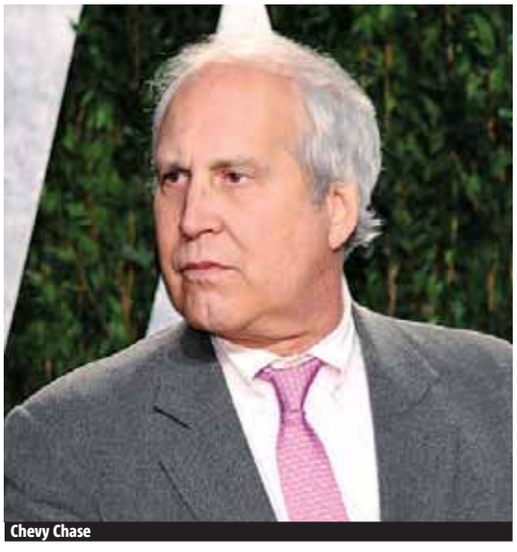
Twitter

@rickygervais
Saying "Atheism is a belief system", is like saying "not going skiing, is a hobby."

@GarryShandling
OK, so I misunderstood what planking was at first. Big deal.

@CraigyFerg
Ugh, I feel like Burt Reynolds - woke up covered in hair. My giant German Shepherd slept on top of my bed last night. So did my dog.

@SethMacFarlane
"I'M STANDING ON THE FRONT OF A BOAT!" --Titanic (first draft)



Chevy Chase

Chase could be cut out of Community

Chevy Chase's future on the sitcom Community may be in jeopardy after a feud with show creator Dan Harmon, who decided to unload about the dust-up at a recent comedy show he hosts.

As Harmon tells it, Chase stormed off set after a particularly difficult scene, eventually sending Harmon an apology via text message.

"I said f-- you. You breached your contract," Harmon says.

"And then what happened a day later? That night ... after what I'm guessing is two bottles of Busch Light?"

Harmon then played a voice mail message purportedly from Chase that included the veteran comic actor saying, "If you were here now, I'd f--ing kick your teeth out" and, "You're not funny. You're OK."

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- ***Laura Mercier, Fresh Fig Body Butter, $35*** lauramercier.com

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

On the Web

Gray hair is in fashion but many working women aren't ready to give up the dye.

Jenna opens the J.Crew door: 'We don't want to be exclusive'

Brand expand. The U.S. brand, with the massive cult following and Michelle Obama endorsement, finally pushes its unique take on high and low global

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

President and executive creative director of J.Crew, Jenna Lyons.

For years, J.Crew was that American company that produced the chic clothes that you coveted but frustratingly couldn't buy. Through Michelle Obama, the rest of the world was introduced to the brand's colourful, up-beat cardigans and pencil skirts, clothes that sit just slightly to the left of classic — meaning, trend-conscious enough without the risk of being out of style six months later. And then there's Jenna Lyons, the president and executive creative director of J.Crew, whose fashion celebrity seems to grow by the day. Her off-beat personal style and knack for seamlessly mixing high and low has become inextricably linked with the brand, not to mention a full-blown fashion blogger obsession.

We talk to Lyons about the company's recent decision to go global (they now ship to 107 countries) after only being available in the U.S. for nearly 30 years.

What makes now the right time to expand internationally?

We were finding that a lot of customers were calling our New York store and asking for things to be shipped overseas. But we had to get our ducks in a row first. We had the U.S. expansion that we were working on and we were in the process of launching a few really big projects that we needed to have all hands on deck for first. We wanted to do it right.

How do you think J.Crew's American sensibility will translate to a global audience?

Some brands have a very specific look. But we expect you to put your own quirk on it. We're not trying to present it as only one way of dressing or looking. I love it when we shoot (for our catalogs) in other places. It's great to see what our (staff) come back with. For example, someone will come back with this great Guatemalan piece worn with chinos and loafers. And I can't wait to see the same thing happen with our shoppers in Russia. Or to see what someone in China might do.

The brand is much more popular with fashion insiders than it was years ago. For example, Manolo Blahnik collaborated with you on your a/w '12 show and you're now selling Comme des Garçons Play. What led to the change?

I think Mickey Drexler (chairman and CEO) has allowed us to step out of the box of what we've done before. We've really tried to develop a clear visual over the last four or five years that's a tad bit more fashion. Working with the CFDA has also been a big help, getting more intimately acquainted with the designers and people like Diane von Furstenberg and Anna Wintour. People began to have a different trust level with us. People (in the fashion industry) began to view us as being on the inside rather than the outside.

How are you managing to please both your fans who love high fashion and the ones who love the affordable classics?

It's a challenge to mix aspiration with approachability. It's about striking that balance between high and low; it's a part of our DNA. We don't consider ourselves a luxury brand and we don't consider ourselves a high-street brand. We have a wide range of customers.

We're not positioning ourselves as a luxury brand, we're offering you a cohesive way to shop. We don't want to be exclusive, we want people to feel like they can have a piece of the brand. We want to show that you can make anything cool.

BLAH HURT NUMB ANGRY ANXIOUS DOWN NOT myself TODAY

EVER HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOURSELF?

Find out why paying attention to those feelings is an important part of dealing with your mental health, and why mental health in Canada must change.

Scotiabank partnersformentalhealth TAKE THE PLEDGE AT NOTMYSELFTODAY.CA

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@Jeanne_Beker: Bracing myself for the wknd. Is there such a thing as eating too much chocolate? And what's your idea of a hip Easter bonnet??

@DaleHodderElad
you can't go wrong with one made by Philip Treacy ;)

@Jeanne_Beker
I adore Philip Treacy, tho Princess Beatrice might beg to differ! But outrageous is always a fun way to go in the hat dept.

@speakingdresses
NEVER such a thing as too much chocolate!

@Jeanne_Beker
Right...tell THAT to my bathroom scale!

@Cangal48
An "Easternator"...LOL

@Jeanne_Beker: Check this exquisite "Moose" cuff that just arrived! Gift from uber-talented designer Kerryn Kruger.

@Jeanne_Beker: With my pals Chabela Ayoub, @LisaLaflammeCTV , @TeatroVerde , +Mary Symons celebrating LIFE!

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.

JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

Blow them all away

Get it straight. With spring weather comes out-of-control hair. Get a grip on some of these must-have straightening products

With so many promise-to-give-you-salon-blowout-results hair products on the market, we enlisted Hair Kit assistant and super-curly hair girl Jamie Lincoln for a 30-day trial of nearly every product on the market. Here are the ones that made her Top Four.

1. Marc Anthony Moisture Gloss Daily Drops

The small baby hairs around my temple are incredibly difficult to straighten without branding myself in the process. A dime-sized amount of this smoothed hairs post-straightening without making them look greasy. $10, marcanthony.com

2. Matrix Blow Total Results Sleek Blow Down Leave-In Cream

I applied a small dollop of the Leave-In Cream, then read a magazine for about 20 minutes to allow the light treatment to work its magic. Upon blow-drying, my hair was shinier and felt super-soft. $15, matrixcanada.ca

3. Keratin Complex Intense Rx Ionic Keratin Protein Restructuring Serum

After thoroughly working a few pumps of this serum into my hair and brushing through with a comb, I waited for about an hour before blow-drying and then straightening. When my girlfriend saw me, she thought I'd just come from the salon. $41, keratincomplex.com

4. Pureology Supersmooth Shampoo and Conditioner

When it comes to shampoo, I've always thought it was what you do after you shampoo that mattered. Not true. Pureology's Supersmooth Shampoo revolutionized my world. Combined with the conditioner, it added so much shine and volume. $30, pureology.com

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METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

STITCH IT: DESIGN METRO DRESSES

Creating dresses made from Metro Newspaper: This was the challenge given to the students studying fashion design at LaSalle College's Montreal and Vancouver campuses. Many accepted the challenge and let their imagination and pencil go wild in order to present original sketches to the professional jury chosen for the deliberations.

Geneviève Vézina-Montplaisir, Metro fashion journalist and blogger, Michèle Boulanger-Bussière, member of the Fondation de la mode de Montréal's board of directors, Céline Chicoine and Jean-Claude Labonté, fashion design teachers at LaSalle College in Montreal, and Nargas Khabazha, fashion design teacher at LaSalle College in Vancouver, chose the top five sketches.

Keep an eye out for the unveiling of the five dresses in the trend section of Metro on April 12 and on **metronews.ca**.

CHECK OUT THE FIVE FINALISTS

NAME: Mattea Goldstein (Vancouver)
TITLE: Flapper Faerie Dress

NAME: Ai Ohyama (Vancouver)
TITLE: Exclusive Dress

NAME: Lourdes Carla Pierre-Paul (Montreal)
TITLE: Individuals

NAME: Synthia Imbert (Montreal)
TITLE: Origami

NAME: Valérie Duval (Montreal)
TITLE: Night Garden

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND OUR FIVE FINALISTS, VISIT METRONEWS.CA

IN COLLABORATION WITH: LASALLE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL

Keep small spaces neutral and add drama on focal points like a fireplace. BENJAMINMOORE.CA

Small space paint primer

Decor ideas. Painting a tiny abode? Here's a few tricks to make it feel larger

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

If you are thinking about freshening up your space this spring, there is no better return on your dollar and time then to paint it a new colour.

If you are in a small space then here are some designer secrets that will make it feel larger than it actually is.

Be consistent

To make the overall space feel as large as possible, paint it one colour.

That colour should be a good neutral that reflects your style in many rooms. Neutrals don't have to be boring; khaki green, blue greys, camel tans and putty creams are all updated neutrals that give personality to a space.

If you really want more than one colour, choose similar tonal values in the different colours.

This will create an even flow of tones throughout the space, making it feel bigger.

Match your trims

If your five-inch baseboards and four-inch crown mouldings are painted the same colour as your walls, you will visually gain nine inches of height in the room.

This little trick will make your space feel taller and loftier.

Interior doors, radiators, mantels and stairs become less interruptive when painted the same colour as the rest of the space.

Paint trims with a sheen-finished paint for durability and to allow them to stand out.

Keep ceilings white

I have always subscribed to the classic decorator rule that ceilings should be painted a dull white.

Your ceiling is the largest, uninterrupted surface in a room. Keeping it bright helps natural light bounce into the room and makes ceilings appear taller.

A lot of new small places offer exceptionally high ceilings, which often gives the too-tall "cracker-jack box" effect to the room.

In that case paint the ceilings the same as the walls to help bring them down, which inevitably helps visually widen the room.

Paint a punch

In order to add jazz to a small space it's always nice to highlight a focal point with a splash of paint.

An old mantel painted high-gloss navy blue, a multi-mulliened window painted black, a centrally-located interior door painted citron green are all simple ways to add a punch of colour to your space without chopping it up.

Be careful with some colours

Painting an entire small space any of the three primary colours (apple red, sunflower yellow or cobalt blue) would be a big mistake.

- **Three primary colours.** These shades are the truest form of colour. But they can affect our visual and mental states if we are exposed to them for too long a time.
- **Sunflower yellow.** The true form of yellow is a irritant to the eye (but it's great for powder rooms and hallways).
- **Cobalt blue.** This colour generally lacks personality (but use it to add a punch of colour inside a closet or to paint around cabinetry in a kitchen).
- **Apple red.** This colour creates blood flow and energy (good only for dining rooms).
- **How to use these colours.** If you like yellow, red or blue, make sure they are a faded-down, murky version to help soften the intensity.

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Charles the butler. Washing machines aren't quite as simple as they look

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the butler,

What washing machine would you recommend for an average household that consists of just four people? What is your opinion on front-loader machines versus traditional washing machines?
I would really appreciate your advice.
Thank you so much.

Hello,

I am really happy to help where I can, and thank you for keeping your questions coming!

When it comes to making a decision about appliances, brand isn't everything.

There are several other factors to consider before you buy a new washing machine.

1. Family need: Does your household produce delicate laundry items or are you just washing a bunch of jeans and T-shirts?

2. What is your budget?

3. Do you do laundry once a week or every day?

4. Do you care about the settings or do you just want a good basic wash?

5. If you go with a front loader, is it located somewhere in the house that you can leave the front door open while it dries out? This is very important to avoid mildew.

6. How environmentally concerned are you?

Remember a top-loading machine can use up to 40 gallons of water versus a front loader that can use as little as a third that amount of water.

Although I love front-loading machines, there is still an argument for top loaders based on how you answer the above questions.

Good luck!

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It's that time of year: Get scrubbing

Spring cleaning. Domestic darling Katie Brown gives us useful ways to make the annual clean-out less of a chore

TINA CHADHA
life@metronews.ca

"The first thing you've got to do is start with a good playlist so you can get your groove on," says lifestyle expert and TV host Katie Brown (katiebrown.com). See why we love her? Here are more of her spring cleaning tips:

Clean before you clean

"You want to make sure you're starting with a tidy house," says Brown. " Spring cleaning shouldn't be about putting away your clothes or making your bed. I remember growing up we had a cleaning lady that would come over once a month, and my mom made us clean our rooms before. It used to drive me nuts, but I get it now. When you're doing the "big clean" it takes too much time to tidy up. This is the time you get deep into it and get to all the things that are driving you crazy, like getting your windows clean."

Strategize

Go worst room to best, advises Brown. "My kitchen is the hardest. So I start there in the beginning when I'm really pumped up. If I do the kitchen first, then I'm happy because I know I have it out of the way."

Spread the love

"Don't try and do it all in one day," stresses Brown. "Give yourself an hour after work each day. On Monday you're going to clean your kitchen. On Tuesday you're doing the bathroom, and so on. That way it's not too daunting."

Supplies in check

Have your cleaning supplies in one carry-all that you can easily take from room to room.

"I like to have a big bucket," says Brown. "And in that big bucket is where all the magic happens. I have everything in there I need from WD-40 to emery boards to tape for my vacuum cleaner to magic erasers. It's all there ready to go."

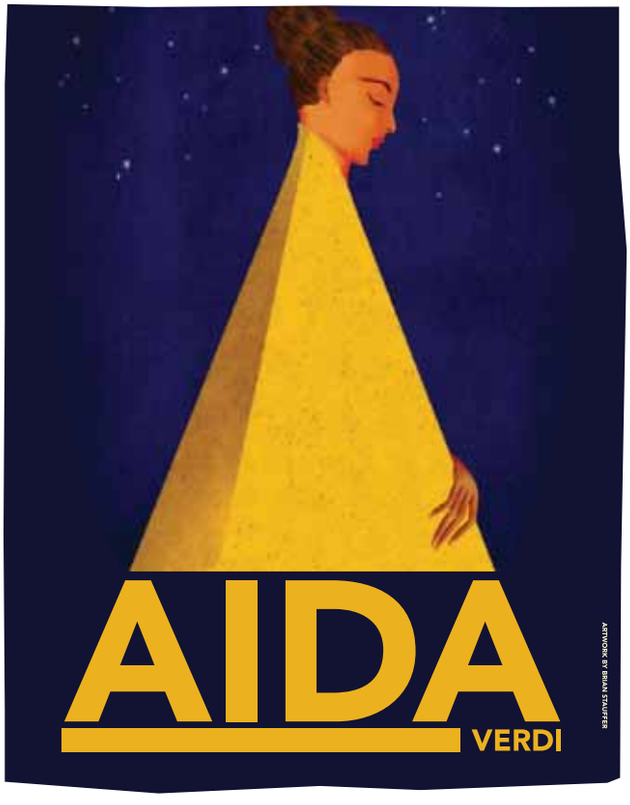
Sweat the small stuff

"I always have a screwdriver with me so that once a year I can get those knobs that are falling off as I'm going through. The niggling things are the most satisfying to do."

Must do list

- **Flip your mattress.** "It airs it out," Brown says.
- **Contain the fridge smell.** Refresh the Arm & Hammer in your fridge.
- **Mothballs are so over.** Put cedar balls in your closet.
- **Clean out your spices.** "A lot of people don't know this, but spices have a shelf life — and it's usually six months at the longest."
- **Breathe better.** Change out your air-conditioning filters.
- **Get the wax off your candle holders.** "The way to do this is put them in the freezer and then take them out and chip off the wax."

Don't delay. Start scrubbing away the winter waste oven today. ISTOCK PHOTOS



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Reach for the matzo meal this Passover for delicious, modern bites

Passover Sliders with Caramelized Onions.

Try these tasty bunless burgers for a twist on traditional ingredients

During Passover, much of the culinary focus is on the Seder, the celebratory meal that commemorates the Jewish liberation and exodus from Egypt.

But the special dietary restrictions that go with the holiday last at least a week, which can challenge even the most creative of cooks to come up with interesting meals.

During the week of Passover, Jews are supposed to adhere to dietary restrictions intended to remind them that their ancestors were in such a hurry to get out of Egypt that they didn't even wait for their bread to rise, instead taking matzos, the unleavened flatbreads that are still eaten today.

This is why many Jews avoid foods made with wheat, barley, rye, spelt or oats that have been mixed with water and allowed to stand in the open air for more than 18 minutes — the amount of time it takes for natural leavening to begin.

Which is to say, there's a lot of matzo sold during Passover.

For an easy meal during this holiday, try these Passover sliders. The bunless burgers are dipped in beaten eggs, coated with seasoned matzo meal and fried in olive oil, Passover margarine or, for the absolute best flavour, chicken or duck fat.

Ingredients

- 625 g (1 1/4 lb) lean ground beef
- 5 ml (1 tsp) onion powder
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) matzo meal
- 5 ml (1 tsp) kosher salt
- 3 ml (3/4 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) kosher chicken fat, duck fat or extra virgin olive oil

Caramelized Onions:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) kosher salt

Passover Sliders with Caramelized Onions

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1. Caramelized onions: In saucepan heat oil over medium heat and cook onion and salt, stirring 15 minutes or until soft and golden. Remove from heat and set aside.

2. In bowl, mix ground beef and onion powder. Form beef mixture into 8 equal 5-x-2-cm (2-x-3/4-inch) patties. Transfer to a plate and set aside.

3. In a wide, shallow bowl, mix together matzo meal, salt and pepper. Dip each beef patty into beaten eggs, turning to coat, then transfer to dish with matzo meal. Turn gently to coat evenly; return to plate.

4. In skillet, heat fat over medium-high heat and fry patties, turning once, 3 mins. per side or until desired doneness until crusty and golden brown. Serve topped with caramelized onions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Cookbook of the Week

Fresh & Easy Kosher Cooking

From Leah Schapira, the founder of cookkosher.com, a rapidly growing online kosher recipe exchange, comes Fresh & Easy Kosher Cooking.

The book contains more than 170 easy-to-make recipes. Among the options are modern eats such as Crispy Oven-Baked Chicken as well as traditional favourites like Egg and Liver Tower. METRO

Readers' note

Not all Passover traditions are the same, so the dish on this page may not meet dietary requirements or restrictions. METRO

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Wins not a cure-all for Canucks

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Edward Fraser
vancouver@metronews.ca

The Cory Schneider-Roberto Luongo debate isn't the only Canucks issue going into the post-season. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Two games left in the regular season, riding a seven-game winning streak that's pushed them to the top of the West and into a tie in the Presidents' Trophy race, and ... concerns abound? Eh?

That's the case after fans rained boos down upon Roberto Luongo as he was yanked against the Ducks Tuesday night and then flamed him relentlessly on Twitter and the blog-o-sphere the following day. And if there wasn't a goalie controversy before, one certainly gained momentum after Luongo hardly gave himself a ringing endorsement, telling reporters, "Whatever happens, happens. I don't like to look too far ahead and I don't like to look behind."

Backup Cory Schneider's numbers are better and he's been much better than Luongo of late, but Luongo's paid to be No. 1 and if he's sitting on the bench when the puck drops in Round 1 it would be a shock. The very fact there's need for talk, however, is disconcerting.

But as nerve-racking as the crease situation is, it takes a back seat to the question marks surrounding the health of Daniel Sedin and, to a lesser extent, Kevin Bieksa. Can Vancouver really win when it matters without its star and a top-pair defenceman? Seven W's in a row might suggest the answer is "yes," but only one of those wins came against a current playoff team.

Tied to those situations is the fact the Canucks must find a way to get more physical in front of their own net, especially on the power play. Part of the issue can be chalked up to the absence of Bieksa, but too often of late opponents have stood unscathed on the doorstep.

In tight-checking games — the calling card of three (L.A., Dallas, Phoenix) of the four teams the Canucks could face in Round 1 — the battles around the crease will determine the series. Owning the area becomes all the more crucial if it's do-or-die with Luongo, who's struggled finding the puck in traffic at times.

This current run is similar to the stretch in late January and early February when Vancouver won several games it shouldn't have based on a convergence of good luck and good timing. That stretch ended with a thud.

And if these concerns don't get sorted, this streak, and the season, will end too.

Schneider gets the nod

The Vancouver Canucks will have Cory Schneider in goal for their final road game of the regular season.

- The backup netminder was named to start Thursday's game in Calgary after Roberto Luongo was pulled early in the second period of Vancouver's 5-4 comeback shootout victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Tuesday.
- Coach Alain Vigneault declined to explain his decision following practice Wednesday prior to the team's flight to Calgary.
- Luongo was booed after getting the hook, while Schneider received a loud cheer from the crowd and did not allow a goal while facing a modest nine shots over the final 33 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Curling

Canada in playoffs at the world championship

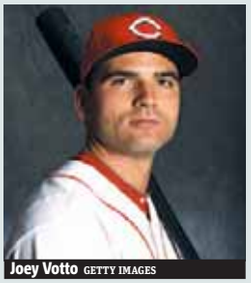
Canadian skip Glenn Howard booked his ticket to the Page 1-versus-2 playoff Wednesday at the world curling championship with two wins on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Votto signs long-term deal

Canadian slugger Joey Votto agreed to a 12-year deal worth $251.5 million US with the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday. It's the longest guaranteed contract in major-league history.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Joey Votto GETTY IMAGES

MLB season opener

Marlins open new digs with loss

Kyle Lohse didn't allow a hit until the seventh inning and pitched into the eighth Wednesday night to help the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals spoil the Miami Marlins' debut in their new ballpark, 4-1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

"Their first two fights were absolute wars and this one promises to be just as thrilling."

UFC president Dana White on Canadian lightweight Sam Stout's June 22 fight against Spencer Fisher in Atlantic City, N.J.

4 SPORTS

Canucks preview

Vancouver at Calgary 6 p.m., Thursday (Sportsnet Pacific)

The Flames (35-29-16) host the Canucks (50-21-9), who are in the hunt for their second straight Presidents' Trophy after winning seven straight. Calgary is winless in its last three, including a 3-2 overtime loss in Vancouver on Saturday. Alex Burrows scored twice in the Canucks' 5-4 shootout win over Anaheim on Tuesday. Burrows has at least 26 goals in each of his last four seasons. In his last 11 games, Olli Jokinen has three points and is a minus-14.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

At least one former Habs great is out of the running for the Canadiens' vacant GM position. Vincent Damphousse withdrew from consideration on Wednesday. Scan the code to find out who else could be the new head of Montreal's front office.

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McIlroy shows no lead is safe at Masters

PGA. Nearly 40 per cent of the Masters have been won by eight players

The seven shots Rory McIlroy took on the 10th hole last year at the Masters remain a blur.

So was the rest of his final round at Augusta National, where the 22-year-old from Northern Ireland made the wrong kind of history. He started with a four-shot lead. He finished 10 shots behind after an 80, the highest closing round by a 54-hole leader in 56 years.

If nothing else, it was a reminder how tenuous a lead can be in the final round.

Especially at the Masters.

"It's a course that makes you really nervous," Australian golfer Geoff Ogilvy said.

There is an art to playing Augusta. For those seeking their first green jacket, let alone their first major, finishing it off can be a challenge.

Greg Norman lost a record six-shot lead in 1996. Ed Sneed had a five-shot lead in 1979, and was still three shots clear with three holes remaining when he made three straight bogeys and lost in a playoff. Ken Venturi was on the verge of becoming the only amateur to win the Masters in 1956 when he blew a four-shot lead. Like McIlroy, he shot an 80.

McIlroy's blown lead is enough of a memory going into the Masters. Adding to the emphasis is a bad habit of 54-hole leaders failing to win this year on the PGA Tour.

In 14 stroke-play events on the PGA Tour, only five players have gone on to win with at least a share of the third-round lead. With that kind of history, protecting a lead is not easy.

"Not even close to easy, as we've seen," Nick Faldo said.

He should know. Faldo is the only player with multiple Masters wins who has never had the lead going into the last day.

Along with his win over Norman in 1996, he came from five shots down in 1989 and three shots behind in 1990, both times winning in a playoff.

"That's the beauty of the Masters," Faldo said. "We come back every year, all those stories are compounded, from victory and failure. That's what makes it so special. The players will be reminded of it. Anything more than three or four shots, and you're making assumptions."

That was never a problem for Tiger Woods. He was either leading or tied going into the final round in all four of his Masters wins — along with his other 10 majors.

Woods never saw it as a burden, though.

"The beauty of having a lead is that you can make those mistakes and still win," Woods said. "But the only problem is if some guys make a run and they get some momentum going, and you're going the other way, you give them a big shot of energy. You've seen some of these guys pull off some pretty low rounds. It doesn't take much. If you get off to a poor start and the other guy gets off to a quick start, four or five shots can be made up in a few holes." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, Gerry McIlroy, Rory McIlroy and Stewart Cink walk in front of the clubhouse during the Par 3 Contest prior to the start of the 2012 Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on Wednesday. ANDREW REDINGTON/GETTY IMAGES

Tough task

"If you were to carry a decent lead into Sunday, you'd need a steel-trap mind to survive."

Three-time Masters winner Nick Faldo
on the difficulties of protecting a lead in the final round.

Big names

Woods, McIlroy headline the field

Tiger Woods couldn't see the green through the trees, though that was only a minor obstacle. He choked up on a 5-wood and played a sweeping draw around the pines, over the water and onto the back of the green.

As he approached the Sarazen Bridge to the 15th green Wednesday, the grandstand rumbled when fans suddenly rose in unison to see him walk by. Some of them held cameras as high as they could, clicked and hoped for the best.

Woods is worth watching at the Masters for all the right reasons.

All it took was one win at Bay Hill two weeks ago for Woods to even remotely resemble the guy who once dominated golf. He won by five shots, and, just like that, was elevated to the favourite at Augusta National.

"Everything is headed in the right direction at the right time," Woods said.

But he's not the only star of this Masters.

Rory McIlroy has all the traits of the heir apparent — an easy swing that produces enormous power, a U.S. Open title at age 22 and an engaging personality — something that Woods is not. In his last 12 tournaments, McIlroy finished third or better eight times, including two wins and a brief stay at No. 1 in the world.

"I'm in a great place," McIlroy said. "I feel like my golf game is in great shape."

There is so much anticipation about this clash of generations it's as if they were the only two players competing for a green jacket, much like the days of Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

Far from it.

"There probably hasn't been a Masters with more legitimate chances," Geoff Ogilvy said before heading out for a final practice round. "I can understand people seeing this as a two-man race, but it's never been further from the truth.

"There are more horses in this race than ever before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

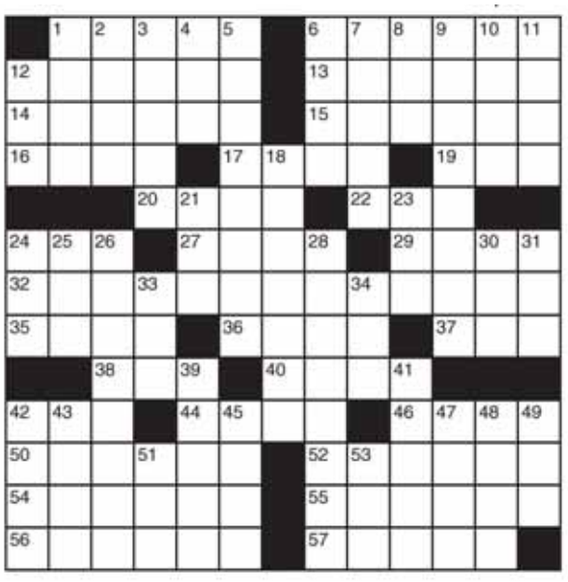
Crossword

Across

1 Sumatran ape
6 Van Gogh painting
12 Open declaration
13 El — (place of wealth)
14 Fidel's capital
15 Gave temporarily
16 Brewery creations
17 "— of Our Lives"
19 Modern-day evidence
20 Greet
22 Mai —
24 Witness
27 Cabin makeup
29 Night light
32 Half a bicycle-shop duo
35 "The best- — schemes ..."
36 Busy as —
37 La-la lead-in
38 Comic Costello
40 Take ten
42 Not dis?
44 In apple-pie order
46 Parks or Bonheur
50 Ailing
52 Hurt
54 Ear affliction
55 Votes into office
56 Washington group
57 Staff

Down

1 Squashed circle
2 Wander
3 Inundated
4 A Bobbsey twin
5 Iris' cousin
6 One way to stand by
7 Perch
8 401(k) alternative
9 Chargers' home
10 Paradise
11 Pop
12 "Eureka!"
18 Math course
21 Everything
23 Blackbird
24 Scale member
25 Mound stat
26 Plot-contrived villain
28 Fragrant flower
30 Kin of 12-Down
31 To the — degree
33 Bachelor's last words
34 — judicata
39 Dark
41 Took a whack at
42 Pairs
43 Initial stake
45 Otherwise
47 Previously
48 Soundstages
49 Billboards
51 Greek vowel
53 Will Smith biopic



Sudoku

2			9		5			3
	8		6		2		4	
		9				7		
		2	4		3	5		
8								9
		5	1		8	3		
		4				8		
	6		5		9		3	
1			2		7			4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	8	9	2	6	4	1	7
9	4	1	8	3	7	6	2	5
6	2	7	4	5	1	8	3	9
8	6	5	2	9	3	7	4	1
7	3	4	1	8	5	9	6	2
2	1	9	6	7	4	5	8	3
4	7	6	3	1	9	2	5	8
5	8	3	7	4	2	1	9	6
1	9	2	5	6	8	3	7	4

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

OUTZ XUFJWS FUS NGQQZP CWUT SVZ VEFV-BIGOO BUJQSWX BIJN CUW QUS NZEQF BJISJWZP ZQUJFV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU FAITHFULLY CLEAN YOUR EARS, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THAT GOOD AURAL HYGIENE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals H

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 8°/3° Partly cloudy
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. There can be no half measures for you today. You know what you want and you know how to get it.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Identify your priorities and resist the urge to start something new, even if it makes you extra money.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Flex your muscles and remind those you live and work with that you are not the sort who is easily beaten. They'll back off.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You'll discover something interesting about a friend today that they might prefer you and the world did not know. Be tactful. Try not to embarrass them.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. People like to think that they know best, but best for one individual is not necessarily best for another. Keep that in mind today.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. You can change something about your life that you no longer enjoy. Channel the time you save into more productive activities.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Follow your instincts and take a few chances today. You will get many more cheers than boos.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You may be tempted to let someone get away with comments about you that are clearly untrue, maybe even defamatory. Don't.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. If there is something you want, you will find a way to get it, even if it means treading on a few toes and bruising a few egos.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Family members are in the driving seat at the moment so you might as well sit back and enjoy the ride.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Everyone will do as you tell them today. There will be no shortage of people who want you to act for their benefit. Ignore them.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You'll get the chance to show what you are made of today and to show that you have what it takes. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption Contest

"Duck... duck... duck... duck... GOOSE!"
CHARMANDER

MARTIN MEISSNER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

BLAH HURT NUMB ANGRY ANXIOUS DOWN NOT myself TODAY

EVER HAVE DAYS WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE YOURSELF?

Find out why paying attention to those feelings is an important part of dealing with your mental health, and why mental health in Canada must change.

partnersformentalhealth

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Paris	from $248 + taxes & fees $514

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Huatulco	from $95 + taxes & fees $340
Los Cabos	from $149 + taxes & fees $335
Toronto	from $199 + taxes & fees $226
Puerto Plata	from $212 + taxes & fees $407
Cancun	from $215 + taxes & fees $340
Los Angeles	from $299 + taxes & fees $100
Varadero	from $355 + taxes & fees $286
San Diego	from $379 + taxes & fees $121
New York	from $479 + taxes & fees $144
Sydney	from $708 + taxes & fees $843

Canada

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights
from **$129**
taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom on Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $33 per day.

Banff 2 Nights — from $155 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** shuttle into town included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $20 per night. **ADD** evening wildlife safari from 45.

Victoria 2 Nights — from $189 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom on the Inner Harbour. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $6 per night.

Whistler 3 Nights 4-Star — from $224 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom near Whistler Village. **ADD** tree trek canopy walk from $51.

Jasper 2 Nights 4-Star — from $254 taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in Jasper National Park. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $77 per night.

Toronto Air + 4 Nights — from $499 + taxes & fees $234
INCLUDES accom downtown. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $104 per night. **ADD** city tour from $45.

FEATURE

Africa 9-Day Tour
from **$510**
taxes & fees included

HIGHLIGHTS Johannesburg, Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Maun, Okavango Delta, Elephant Sands and Victoria Falls. Travel from Johannesburg to Victoria Falls.

Vacations

Hong Kong Air + 7 Nights — from $865 + taxes & fees $422
INCLUDES central accom near Times Square. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $12 per night. **ADD** pre-dinner cruise from $47.

Australia Long Stay Air + 21 Days — from $1375 + taxes & fees $844
INCLUDES airfare to Sydney and campervan rental with linen, cookware and unlimited mileage.

Buenos Aires Air + 8 Nights — from $1399 + taxes & fees $558
INCLUDES central accom. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $63 per night. **ADD** Tigre Delta tour from $52.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 4-Star
from **$398**
+ taxes & fees $335

Riviera Nayarit
7 Nights 4-Star — from $392 + taxes & fees $335

Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star — from $468 + taxes & fees $335

Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star — from $515 + taxes & fees $340

Huatulco 7 Nights 4.5-Star — from $525 + taxes & fees $340

Cayo Santa Maria
7 Nights 5-Star — from $645 + taxes & fees $286

Cruises

Bahamas 4-Night Cruise
from **$169**
+ taxes & fees $100

CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Freeport, Nassau and Great Stirrup Cay. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $10 per night.

Southern Caribbean
7-Night Cruise — from USD $379 + taxes & fees USD $79
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit St Thomas, Barbados, St Lucia, St Kitts and St Maarten. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $11 per night.

Mediterranean
8-Night Cruise — from USD $399 + taxes & fees USD $115
CRUISE Civitavecchia (Rome) to Amsterdam and visit Gibraltar, La Coruna, Le Havre and Dover. **UPGRADE** to balcony stateroom from $25 per night.

Pacific Coastal
8-Night Cruise — from USD $449 + taxes & fees USD $130
CRUISE San Diego to Vancouver and visit Catalina, San Francisco (overnight), Astoria and Victoria.

Transatlantic 11-Night Cruise — from $449 + taxes & fees $63
CRUISE Miami to Barcelona and visit Ponta Delgada. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $7 per night.

Hawai'i 7-Night Cruise — from USD $989 + taxes & fees USD $74
CRUISE Ensenada to Honolulu and visit Hilo, Kona, Maui (overnight) and Honolulu (overnight).

USA

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights
from **$189**◊
+ taxes & fees $120

INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** 3-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $193/adult, $178/child (ages 3-9). **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $239.

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights — from $179 + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **ADD** Red Rock Canyon tour from $105.

California Air + 7-Day Car — from $375 + taxes & fees $123
INCLUDES airfare into San Francisco, return from San Diego and 7-day economy car rental with unlimited mileage. **UPGRADE** to convertible car from $17 per day.

Phoenix Air + 4 Nights 4-Star — from $465 + taxes & fees $122
INCLUDES accom. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $5 per night. **ADD** 4-day compact car rental with unlimited mileage from $21 per day.

San Francisco Air + 4 Nights — from $535 + taxes & fees $117
INCLUDES accom downtown. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $44 per night. **ADD** trolley hop from $22.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $649 + taxes & fees $157
INCLUDES Waikiki accom. **ADD** Grand Circle Island with Dole Plantation tour from $95.

Europe

London Air + First 2 Nights
from **$263**
+ taxes & fees $569

INCLUDES central Russell Square accom. **ADD** London Eye Fast Track Ticket from $50.

Paris Air + First 2 Nights — from $373 + taxes & fees $514
INCLUDES central accom near Bercy Village and Gare de Lyon train station. **ADD** Tour de France of Wine tour from $85.

Frankfurt Air + First 2 Nights — from $399 + taxes & fees $553
INCLUDES central accom, near train station.

Amsterdam
Air + First 2 Nights — from $583 + taxes & fees $486
INCLUDES city centre accom near Central Station. Windmills and Edam tour from $46.

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